士郎正宗

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™ 1

SHIROW MASAMUNE

APPLESEED™

publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON**

collection editor **CHRIS WARNER**

series executive editor **TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS**

designer **TINA ALESSI**

art director **LIA RIBACCHI**

APPLESEED™ BOOK ONE: THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

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士郎正宗

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

story and art by **SHIROW MASAMUNE**

translation by **DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH**
[with DUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by **L. LOIS BUHALIS and JOHN CLARK**
[with TOM ORZECHOWSKI and SASQUATCH]

DARK HORSE MANGA

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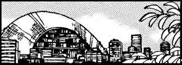

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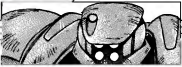
081 [3] EVEN BETS



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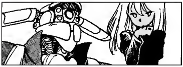
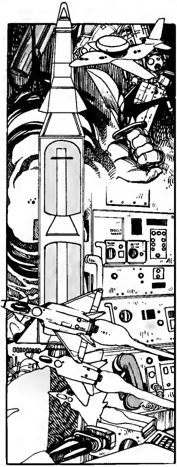


100 [5] HOT POTATO

121 [6] BATTLE OF TITAN

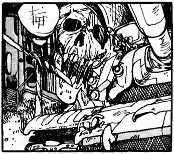
176 [7] REST



S H I R O W

士 郎 正 宗

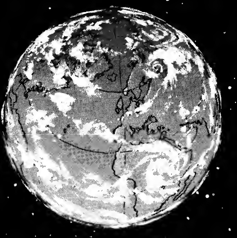
M A S A M U N E



It was in that year that the flames of war broke out simultaneously in every corner of the globe. To the vast movement of armies, conflicts spread, merged, grew, escalating into world war.

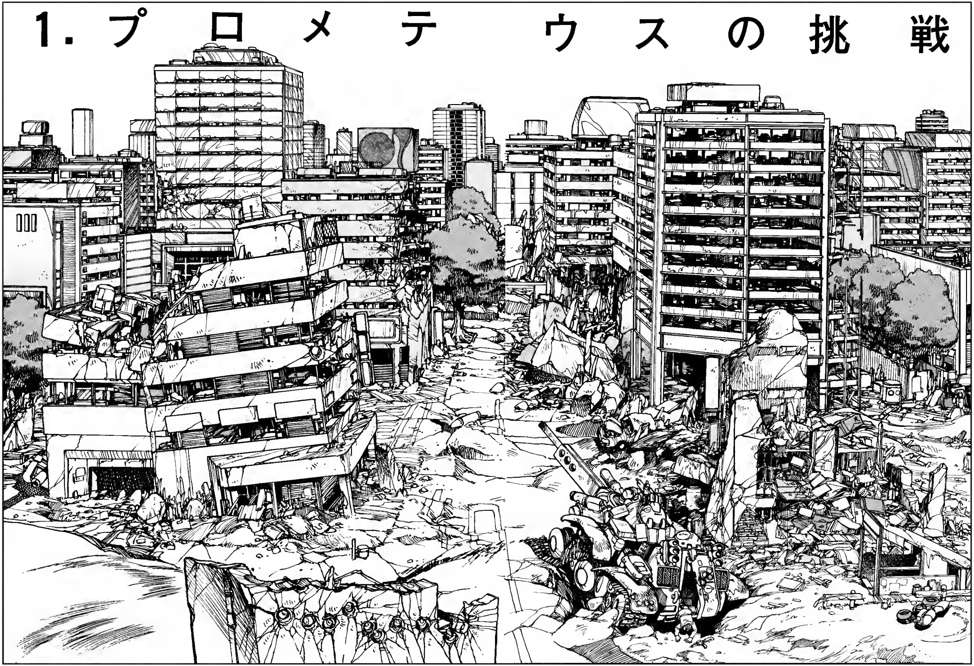
Knowledge was lost. Confusion reigned. New powers rose to displace the old nations.

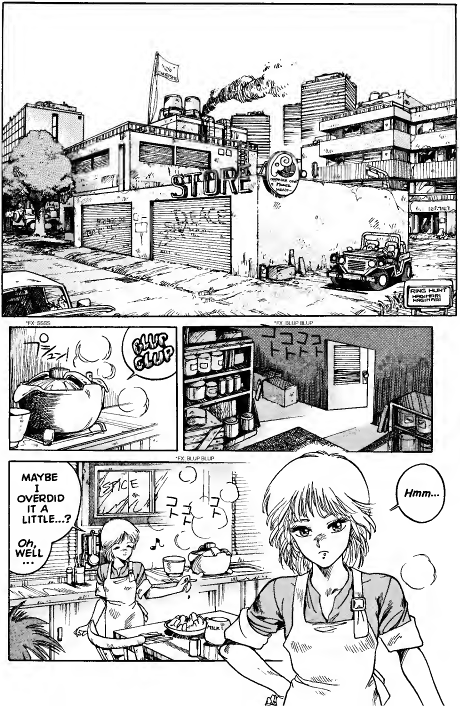
Nuclear weapons themselves were never used. But even without them, the Earth became a quieter planet . . .

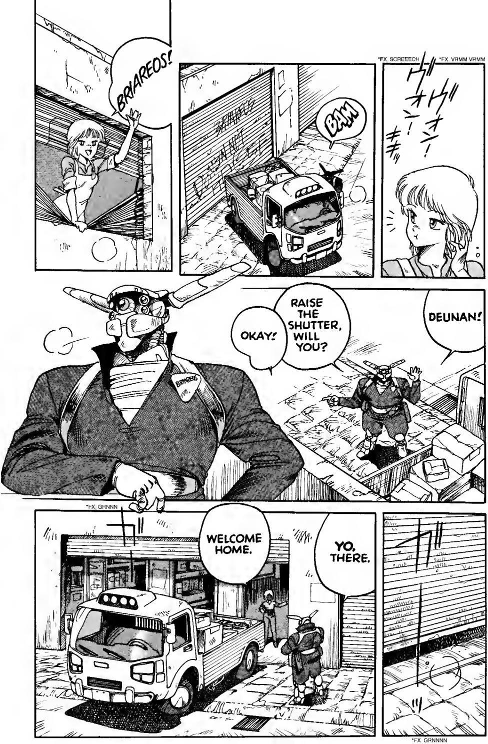


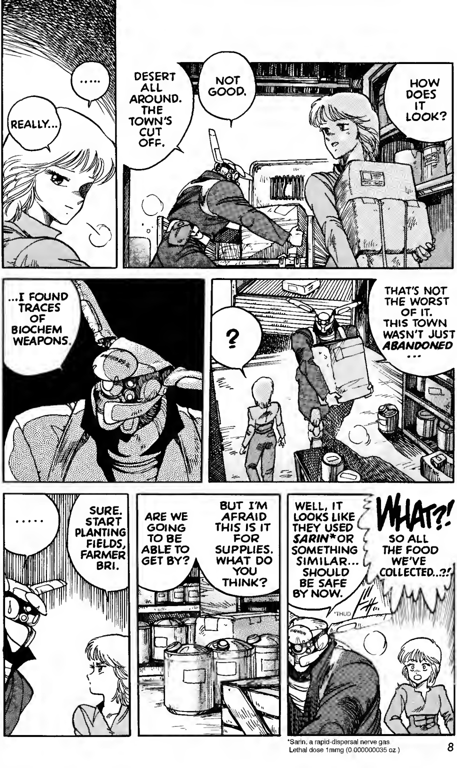
BOOK ONE

THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

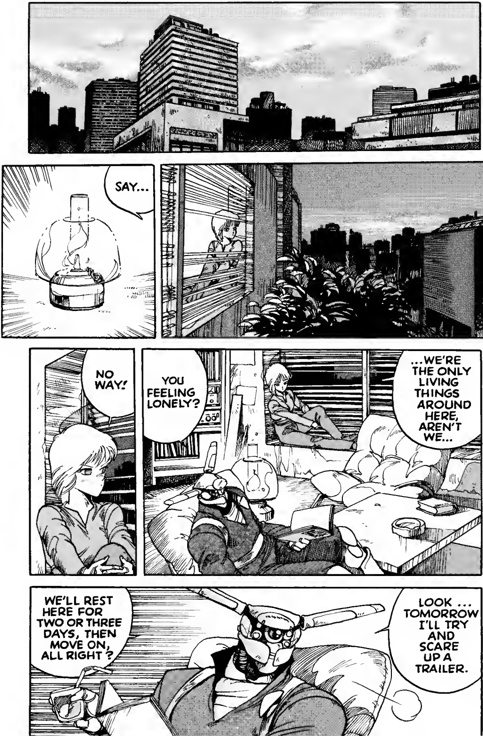

1. プロメテウスの挑戦

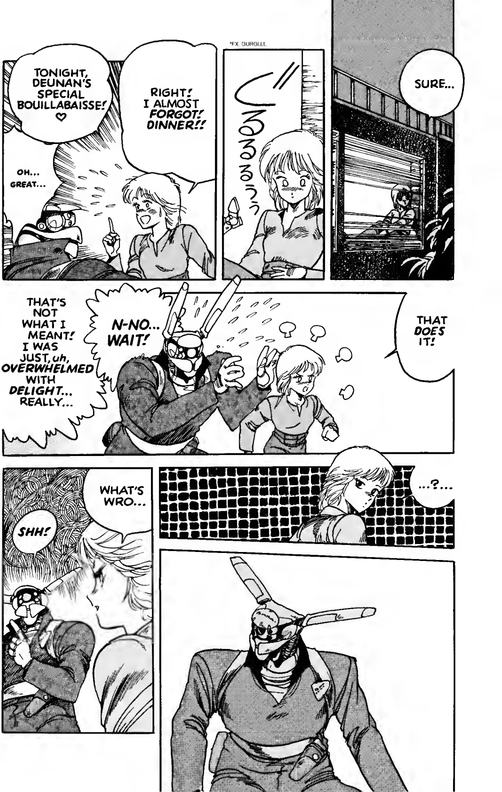

STORE
appease one's Maeez Holy...
RING HUNT
HAGIMARI
HAGIMARI
*FX: SSSS
プシューン!
BLUP BLUP
*FX: BLUP BLUP
ココココ
トトトト
*FX: BLUP BLUP
SPICE
コトコト
Hmm...
MAYBE I OVERDID IT A LITTLE...?
Oh, WELL ...
MILK

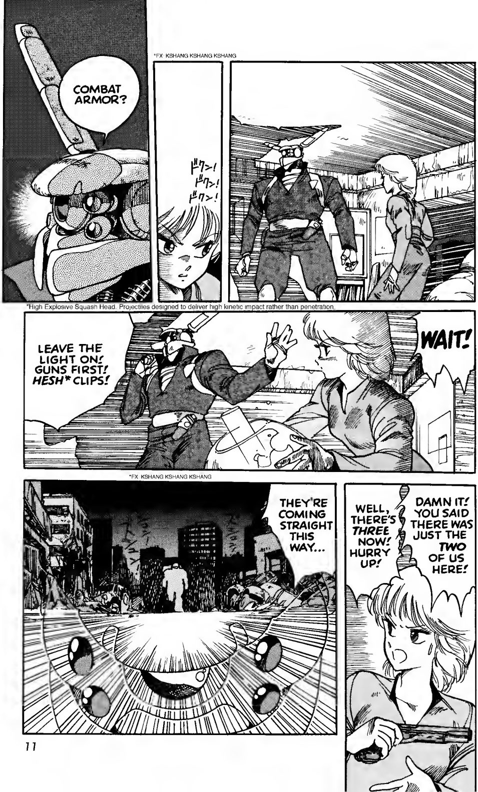

BRIAREOS!
*FX SCREEECH
*FX VRMM VRMM
BAM
DEUNAN!
RAISE THE SHUTTER, WILL YOU?
OKAY!
BRIAREOS
*FX GRNNN
WELCOME HOME.
YO, THERE.
*FX GRNNNN


HOW DOES IT LOOK?
NOT GOOD.
DESERT ALL AROUND. THE TOWN'S CUT OFF.
REALLY...
.....
THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT. THIS TOWN WASN'T JUST *ABANDONED*...
?
...I FOUND TRACES OF BIOCHEM WEAPONS.
WHAT?! SO ALL THE FOOD WE'VE COLLECTED..?!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY USED *SARIN** OR SOMETHING SIMILAR... SHOULD BE SAFE BY NOW.
*THUD
BUT I'M AFRAID THIS IS IT FOR SUPPLIES. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET BY?
SURE. START PLANTING FIELDS, FARMER BRI.
.....

*Sarin, a rapid-dispersal nerve gas
Lethal dose 1mmg (0.000000035 oz.)


SAY...
...WE'RE THE ONLY LIVING THINGS AROUND HERE, AREN'T WE...
YOU FEELING LONELY?
NO WAY!
LOOK ... TOMORROW I'LL TRY AND SCARE UP A TRAILER.
WE'LL REST HERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, THEN MOVE ON, ALL RIGHT ?

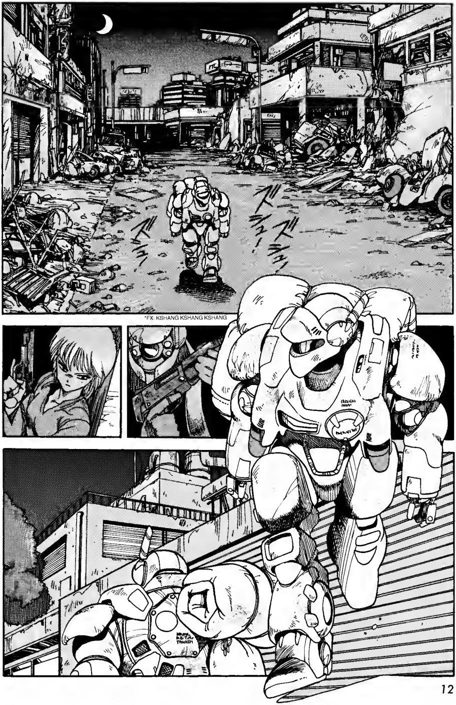

SURE...
*FX GURGLLL
くるるるぅ
RIGHT! I ALMOST FORGOT! DINNER!!
TONIGHT, DEUNAN'S SPECIAL BOUILLABAISSE! ♡
OH... GREAT...
THAT DOES IT!
N-NO... WAIT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! I WAS JUST, uh, OVERWHELMED WITH DELIGHT... REALLY...
...?...
WHAT'S WRO...
SHH!


ドクン!
ドクン!
ドクン!
COMBAT ARMOR?
WAIT!
LEAVE THE LIGHT ON! GUNS FIRST! *HESH** CLIPS!
DAMN IT! YOU SAID THERE WAS JUST THE *TWO* OF US HERE!
WELL, THERE'S *THREE* NOW! HURRY UP!
THEY'RE COMING STRAIGHT THIS WAY...

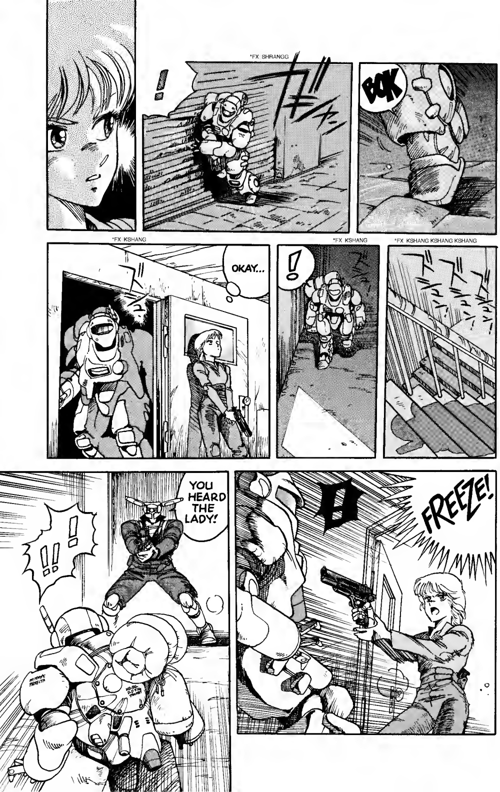
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

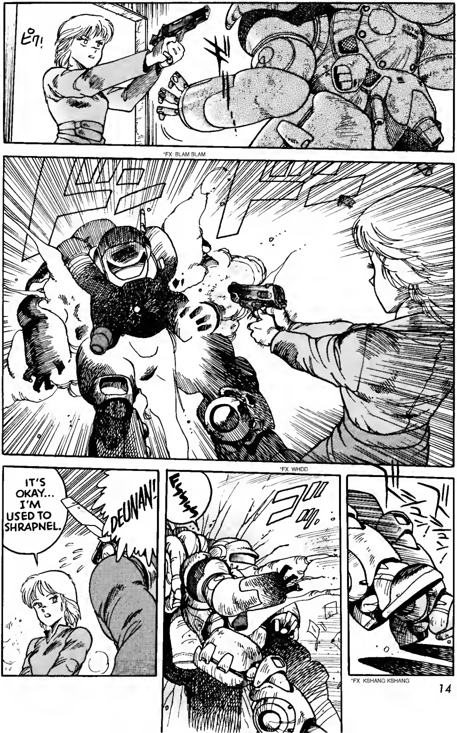
*High Explosive Squash Head. Projectiles designed to deliver high kinetic impact rather than penetration.

*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG


ズシュ！
ズシュー！
ズシュ

*FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG


BOK
*FX SHRANGG
!
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
*FX KSHANG
!
*FX KSHANG
OKAY...
FREEZE!
YOU HEARD THE LADY!
!!
!


ピク!
IT'S OKAY... I'M USED TO SHRAPNEL.
DEUNAN!
Essss
ゴッ

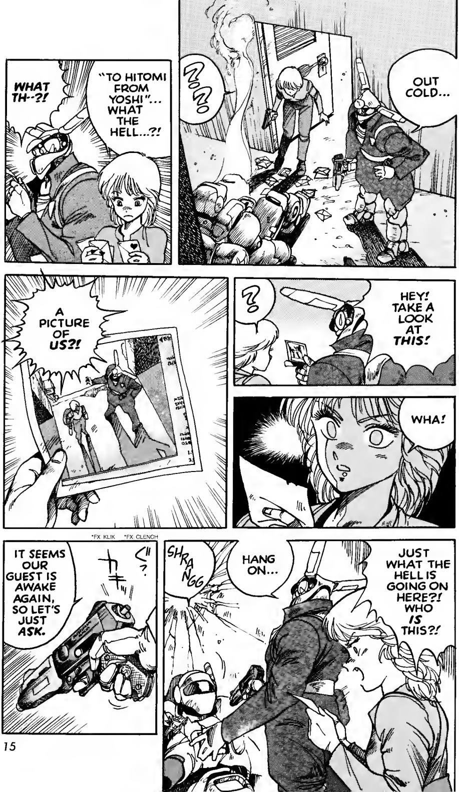
*FX TWITCH

*FX SKREE

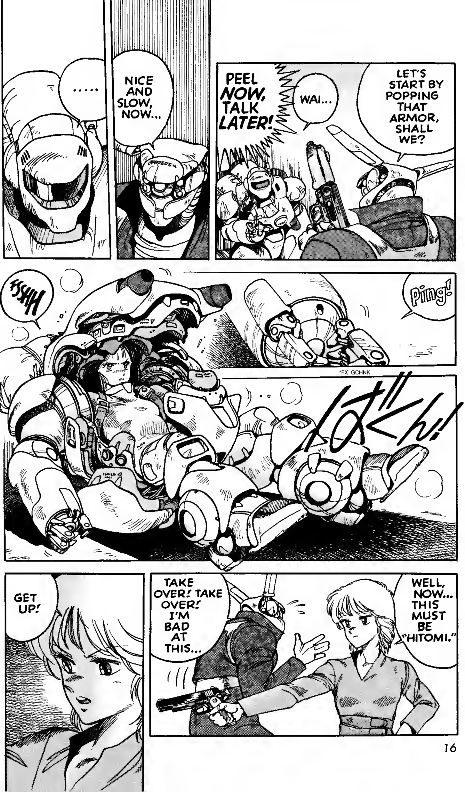
*FX BLAM BLAM

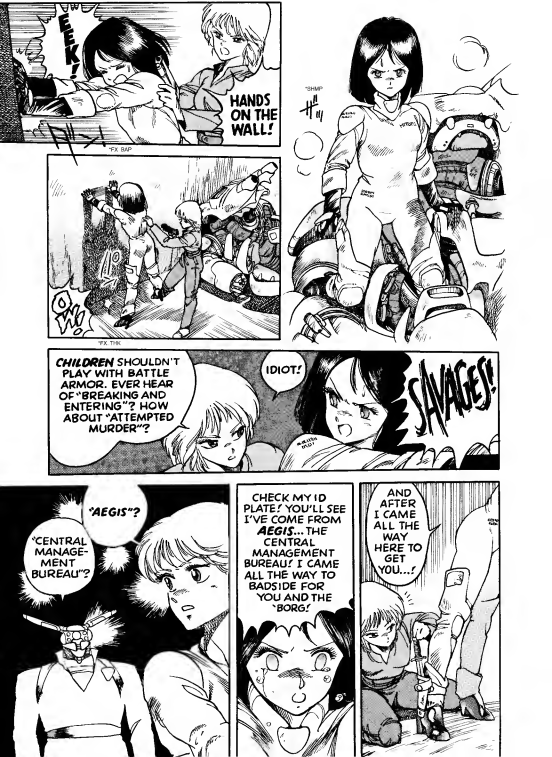
*FX WHDD

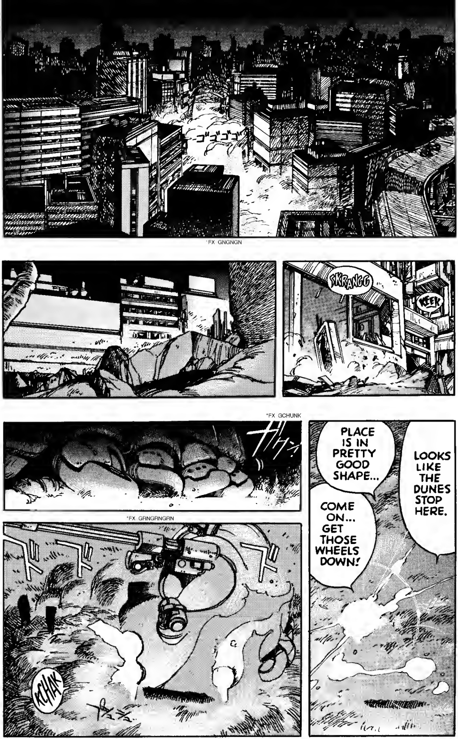
*FX KSHANG KSHANG


OUT COLD...
??
"TO HITOMI FROM YOSHI"... WHAT THE HELL...?!
WHAT TH--?!
HEY! TAKE A LOOK AT ***THIS!***
?
WHA!
A PICTURE OF ***US?!***
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?! WHO ***IS*** THIS?!
HANG ON...
SHRANGG
カチ
?
IT SEEMS OUR GUEST IS AWAKE AGAIN, SO LET'S JUST ***ASK.***

*FX KLIK *FX CLENCH


LET'S START BY POPPING THAT ARMOR, SHALL WE?
WAI...
PEEL NOW, TALK LATER!
NICE AND SLOW, NOW...
.....
Ping!
KSSHH
*FX GCHNK
ばくん!
...
WELL, NOW... THIS MUST BE "HITOMI."
TAKE OVER! TAKE OVER! I'M BAD AT THIS...
GET UP!


EEK!
HANDS ON THE WALL!
*FX BAP
*SHMP
HITOMI
OW!
*FX THK
CHILDREN SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR. EVER HEAR OF "BREAKING AND ENTERING"? HOW ABOUT "ATTEMPTED MURDER"?
IDIOT!
SAVAGES!
"AEGIS"?
"CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU"?
CHECK MY ID PLATE! YOU'LL SEE I'VE COME FROM *AEGIS*... THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU! I CAME ALL THE WAY TO BADSIDE FOR YOU AND THE 'BORG!
AND AFTER I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO GET YOU...!

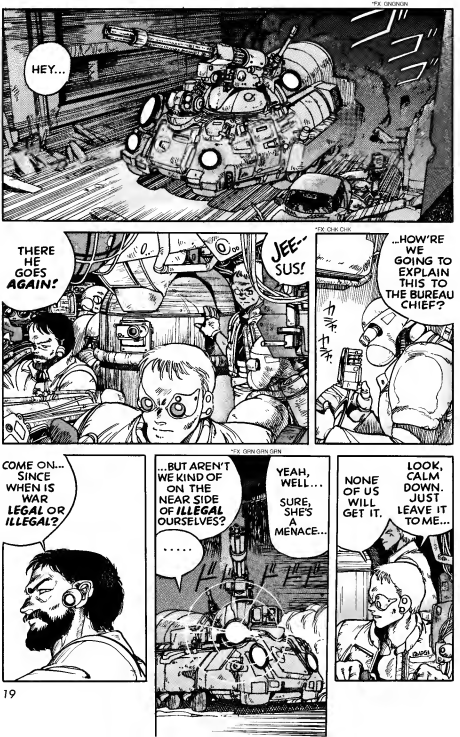

ゴゴゴゴ
SKRANGG
KEEK
ガゴン!
PLACE IS IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE...
LOOKS LIKE THE DUNES STOP HERE.
COME ON... GET THOSE WHEELS DOWN!
KCHAK

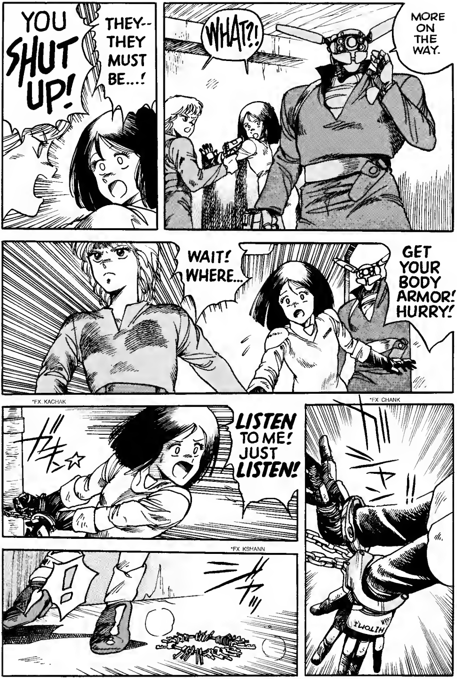
*FX GNGNGN

*FX GCHUNK

*FX GRNGRNGRN

*FX FSSHH

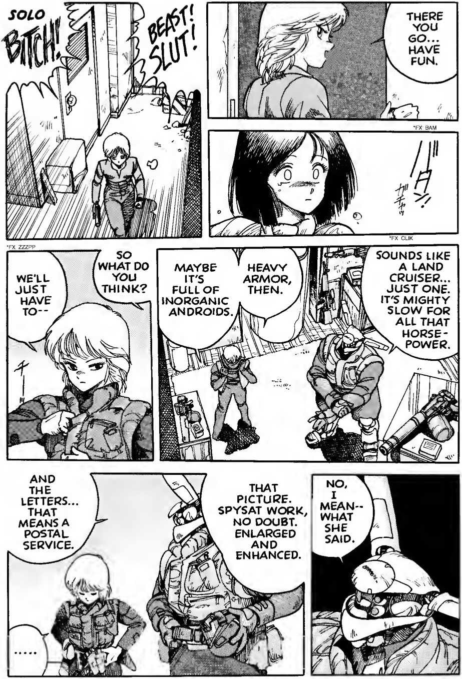

*FX: GNGNGN
HEY...
*FX: CHK CHK
THERE HE GOES AGAIN!
JEE-SUS!
...HOW'RE WE GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO THE BUREAU CHIEF?
*FX: GRN GRN GRN
COME ON... SINCE WHEN IS WAR LEGAL OR ILLEGAL?
...BUT AREN'T WE KIND OF ON THE NEAR SIDE OF ILLEGAL OURSELVES?
.....
YEAH, WELL... SURE, SHE'S A MENACE...
LOOK, CALM DOWN. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME...
NONE OF US WILL GET IT.


YOU SHUT UP!
THEY-- THEY MUST BE...!
WHAT?!
MORE ON THE WAY.
WAIT! WHERE...
GET YOUR BODY ARMOR! HURRY!
LISTEN TO ME! JUST LISTEN!

*FX KACHAK

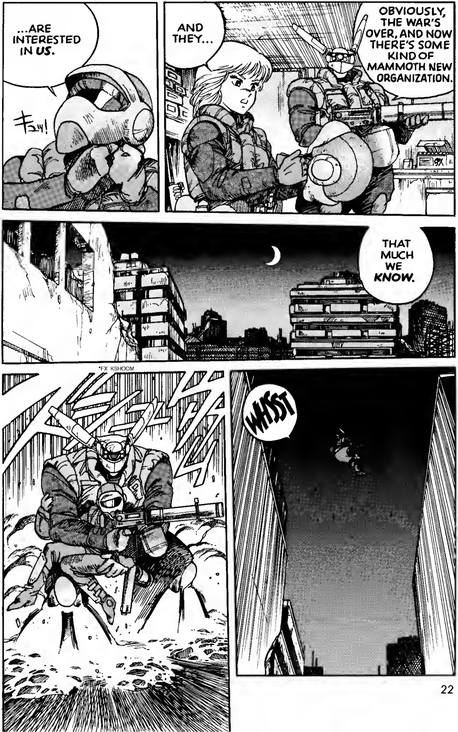
*FX CHANK

*FX KSHANN

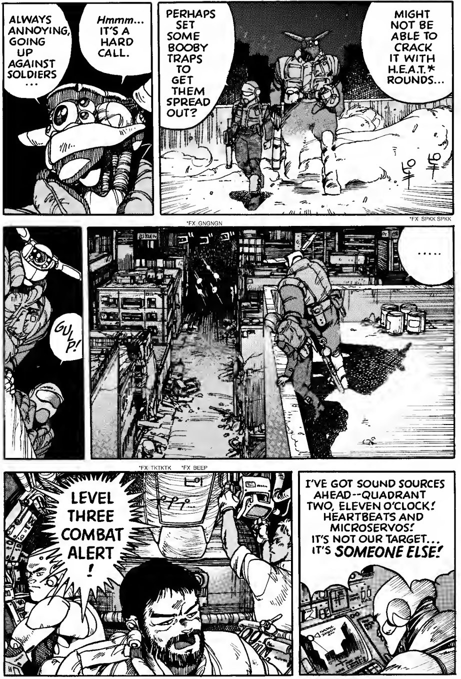

THERE YOU GO... HAVE FUN.
*FX BAM
バタン
ガチャッ
*FX CLIK
SOLO
BITCH!
BEAST! SLUT!
*FX ZZZPP
SOUNDS LIKE A LAND CRUISER... JUST ONE. IT'S MIGHTY SLOW FOR ALL THAT HORSE-POWER.
HEAVY ARMOR, THEN.
MAYBE IT'S FULL OF INORGANIC ANDROIDS.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO--
チー
NO, I MEAN-- WHAT SHE SAID.
THAT PICTURE. SPYSAT WORK, NO DOUBT. ENLARGED AND ENHANCED.
AND THE LETTERS... THAT MEANS A POSTAL SERVICE.
.....

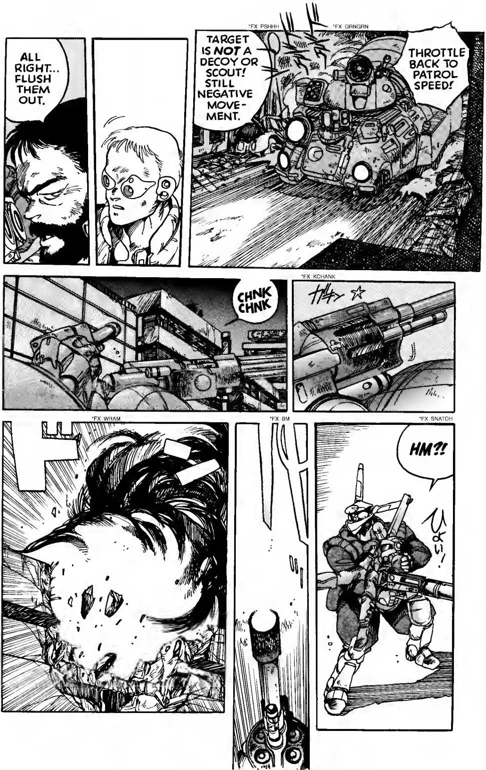
*FX CLICK

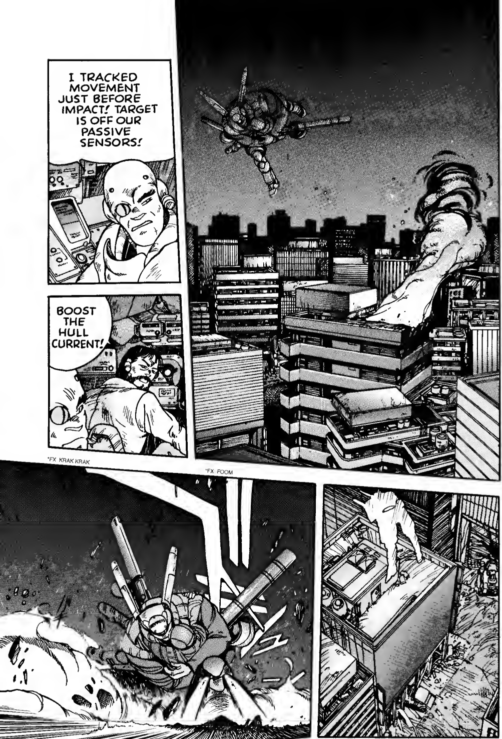
*FX KSHOOM

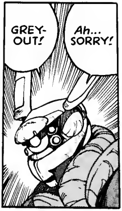

OBVIOUSLY, THE WAR'S OVER, AND NOW THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAMMOTH NEW ORGANIZATION.
AND THEY...
...ARE INTERESTED IN ***US***.
キュッ!
THAT MUCH WE ***KNOW***.
WHSST

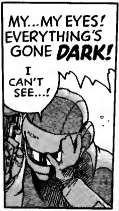
*High Explosive Anti-Tank


ALWAYS ANNOYING, GOING UP AGAINST SOLDIERS ...
Hmmm... IT'S A HARD CALL.
PERHAPS SET SOME BOOBY TRAPS TO GET THEM SPREAD OUT?
MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CRACK IT WITH H.E.A.T.* ROUNDS...
*FX SPKK SPKK
*FX GNGNGN
GULP!
.....
*FX TKTKTK
*FX BEEP
LEVEL THREE COMBAT ALERT!
I'VE GOT SOUND SOURCES AHEAD--QUADRANT TWO, ELEVEN O'CLOCK! HEARTBEATS AND MICROSERVOS! IT'S NOT OUR TARGET... IT'S ***SOMEONE ELSE!***

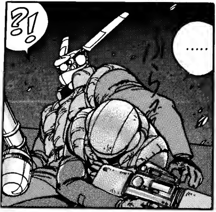

ALL RIGHT... FLUSH THEM OUT.
*FX PSHHH
*FX GRNGRN
TARGET IS **NOT** A DECOY OR SCOUT! STILL NEGATIVE MOVEMENT.
THROTTLE BACK TO PATROL SPEED!
CHNK CHNK
*FX KCHANK
ガチャン☆
*FX WRAM
*FX BM
*FX SNATCH
HM?!
ひょい!


I TRACKED MOVEMENT JUST BEFORE IMPACT! TARGET IS OFF OUR PASSIVE SENSORS!
BOOST THE HULL CURRENT!
*FX KRAK KRAK
*FX FOOM

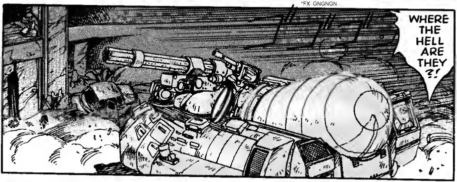

GREY-OUT!
Ah... SORRY!


MY...MY EYES! EVERYTHING'S GONE DARK!
I CAN'T SEE...!

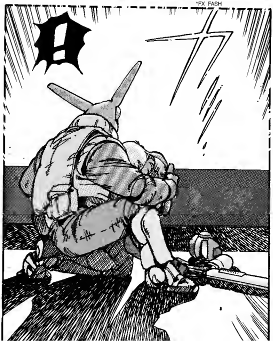
*FX UHH

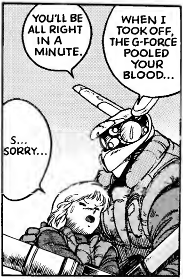


*FX GNGNGN


WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY ?!

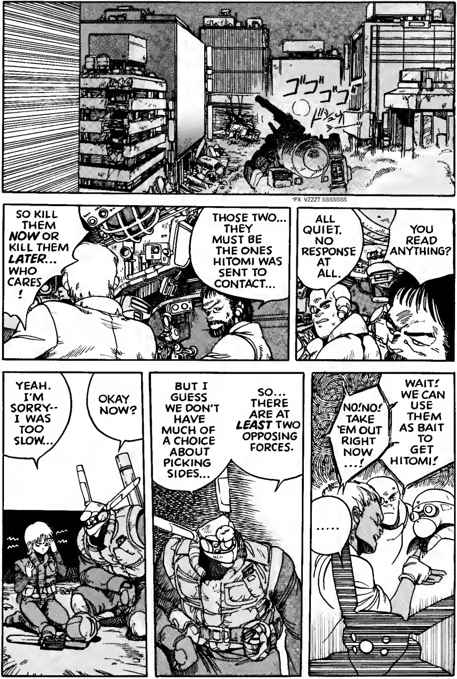
*FX FASH



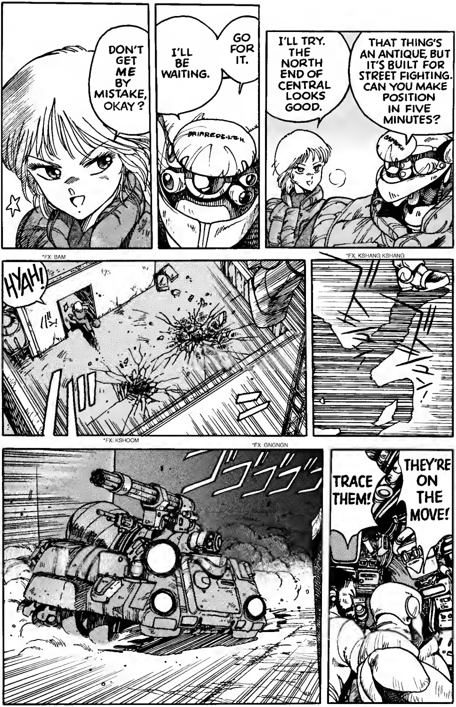

WHEN I TOOK OFF, THE G-FORCE POOLED YOUR BLOOD...
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A MINUTE.
S... SORRY...

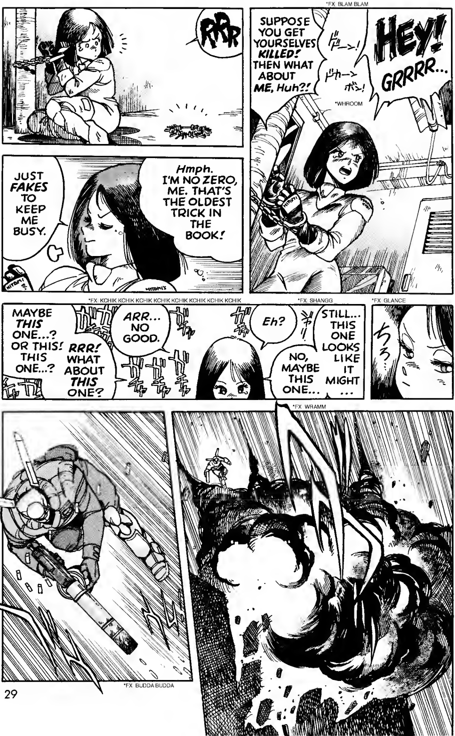
*g=Unit of gravity acceleration—980cm/sec^2
Grayout occurs from 5g and up

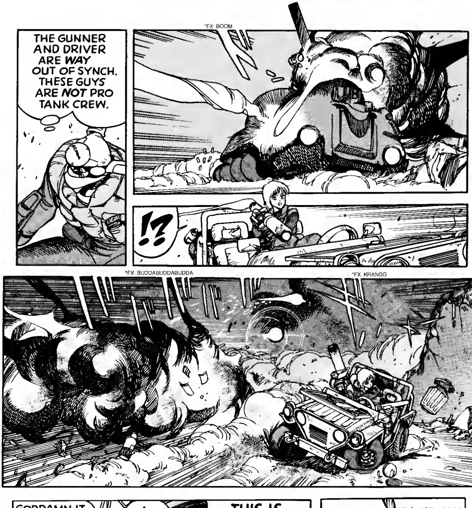
*FX GNGNGNGN

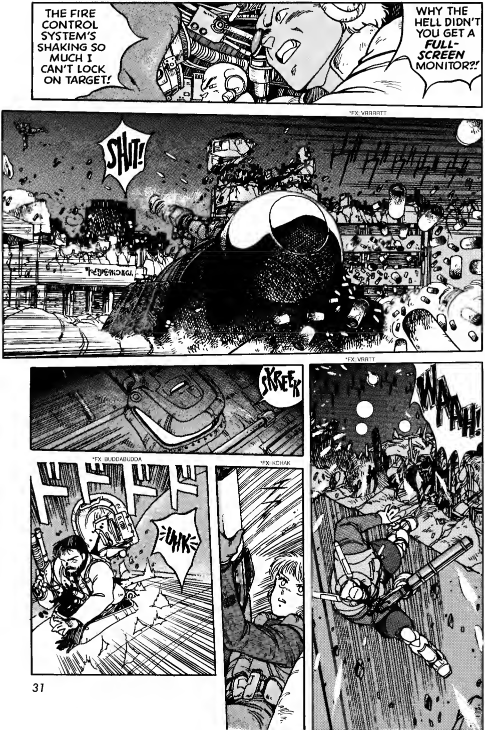

YOU READ ANYTHING?
ALL QUIET. NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
THOSE TWO... THEY MUST BE THE ONES HITOMI WAS SENT TO CONTACT...
SO KILL THEM *NOW* OR KILL THEM *LATER*... WHO CARES!
WAIT! WE CAN USE THEM AS BAIT TO GET HITOMI!
NO! NO! TAKE 'EM OUT RIGHT NOW...!
.....
SO... THERE ARE AT *LEAST* TWO OPPOSING FORCES.
BUT I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE ABOUT PICKING SIDES...
OKAY NOW?
YEAH. I'M SORRY-- I WAS TOO SLOW...

*FX VZZZT SSSSSSS


THAT THING'S AN ANTIQUE, BUT IT'S BUILT FOR STREET FIGHTING. CAN YOU MAKE POSITION IN FIVE MINUTES?
I'LL TRY. THE NORTH END OF CENTRAL LOOKS GOOD.
GO FOR IT.
I'LL BE WAITING.
DON'T GET ME BY MISTAKE, OKAY?
*FX KSHANG KSHANG
*FX BAM
HYAH!
*FX KSHOOM
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!
TRACE THEM!
*FX GNGNGN


*FX BLAM BLAM
HEY! GRRRR...
SUPPOSE YOU GET YOURSELVES *KILLED!* THEN WHAT ABOUT *ME*, Huh?!
ドゴーン!
ドカーン
ボン!
*WHROOM
RRR
Hmph. I'M NO ZERO, ME. THAT'S THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK!
JUST *FAKES* TO KEEP ME BUSY.
*FX GLANCE
ちろ…
STILL... THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT...
*FX SHANGG
Eh?
NO, MAYBE THIS ONE...
ARR... NO GOOD.
*FX KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK
RRR! WHAT ABOUT *THIS* ONE?
MAYBE *THIS* ONE...? OR THIS! THIS ONE...?
*FX WRAMM
*FX BUDDA BUDDA


THE GUNNER AND DRIVER ARE *WAY* OUT OF SYNCH. THESE GUYS ARE *NOT* PRO TANK CREW.
*FX: BOOM
!?
*FX: BUDDABUDDABUDDA
*FX: KRANGG
GODDAMN IT, THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY *WANT* YOU TO DO! THEY'VE GOT MAJOR FIREPOWER OUT THERE!
SHIT!
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE. I'M GOING OUT THERE MYSELF, SO COVER ME!
THEY'RE MAKING **FOOLS** OF US!
CAN'T YOU IDIOTS HIT ANYTHING?!
*FX: BAM

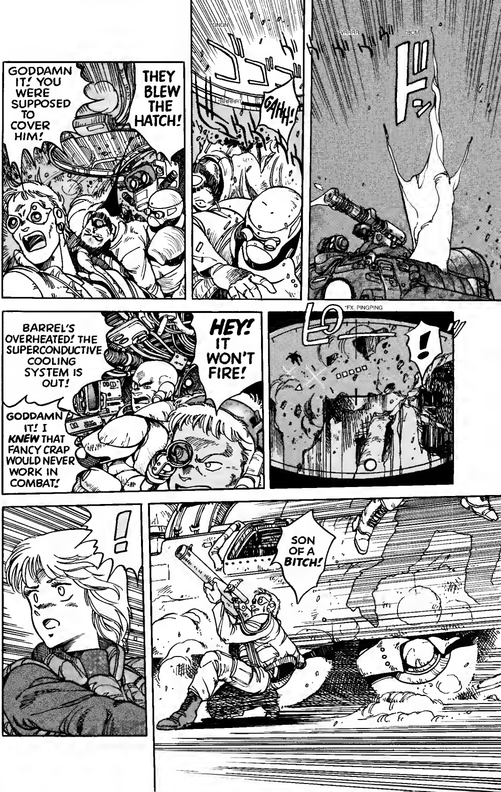

THE FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM'S SHAKING SO MUCH I CAN'T LOCK ON TARGET!
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU GET A *FULL-SCREEN* MONITOR?!
SHIT!
SKREEK
WAAAH!
UHK

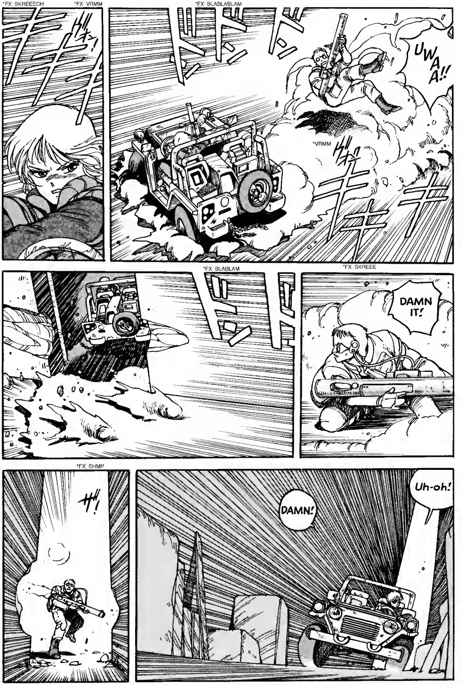
*FX: VRRRRTT

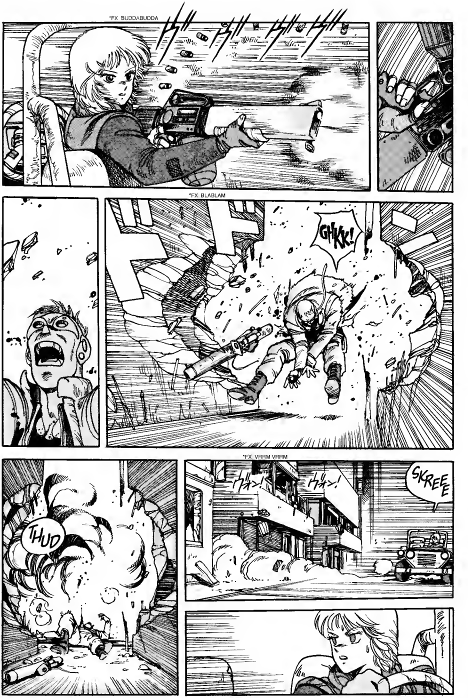
*FX: VRRTT

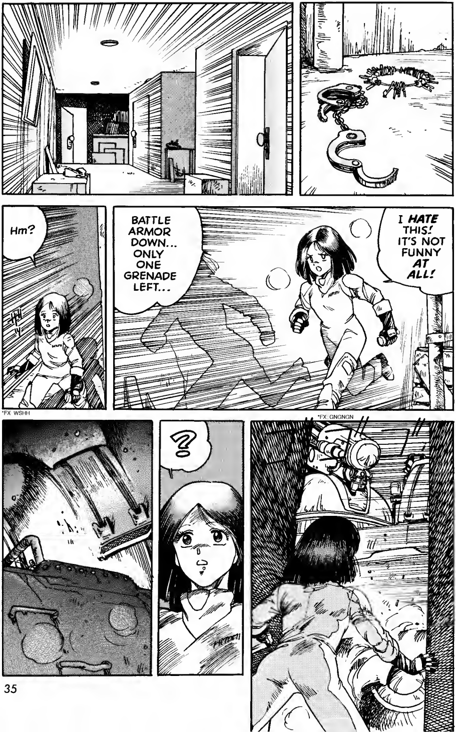
*FX: BUDDABUDDA

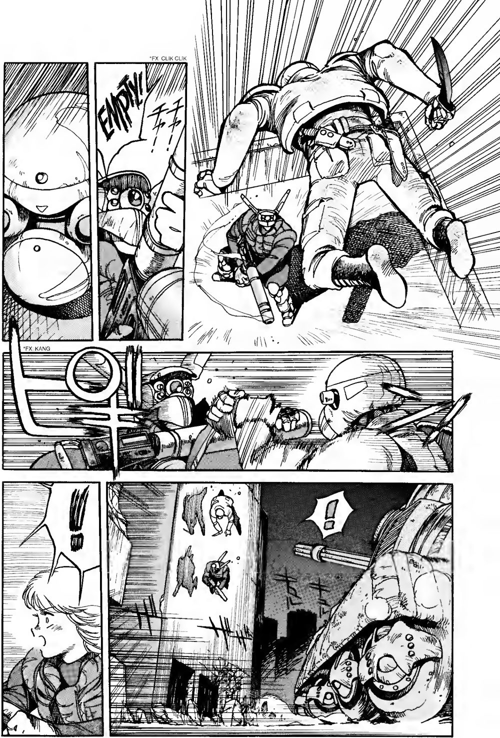
*FX: KCHAK

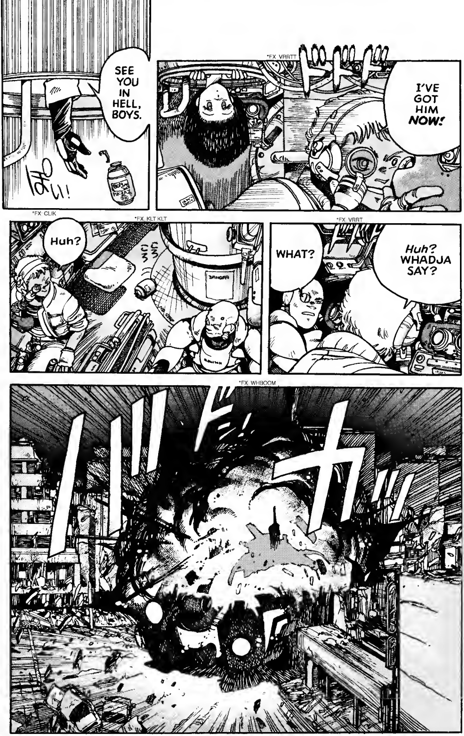

*BOM
*VRRRR
*GNGN
*BRRRRT
GAHH!
THEY BLEW THE HATCH!
GODDAMN IT! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO COVER HIM!
*FX PINGPING
!
HEY! IT WON'T FIRE!
BARREL'S OVERHEATED! THE SUPERCONDUCTIVE COOLING SYSTEM IS OUT!
GODDAMN IT! I KNEW THAT FANCY CRAP WOULD NEVER WORK IN COMBAT!
SON OF A BITCH!
!

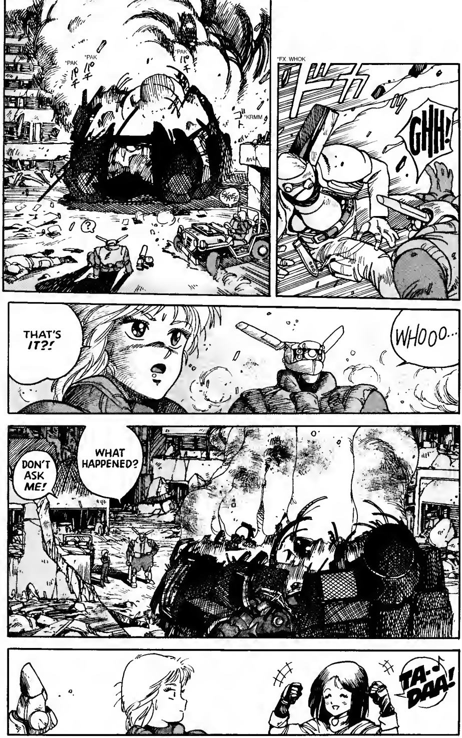

*FX BLABLABLAM
UWAA!!
*VRMM
*FX SKREEECH
*FX VRMM
*FX SKREEE
DAMN IT!
*FX BLABLAM
Uh-oh!
DAMN!
*FX SHMP

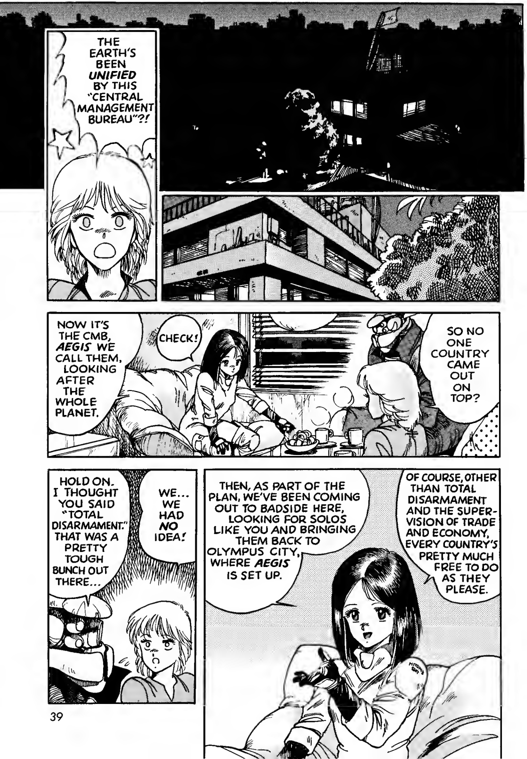

*FX BUDDABUDDA
ダ// ダ// ダ// ダ//
*FX BLABLAM
GHKK!
THUD
*FX VRRM VRRM
ヴォン! ヴォン!
SKREEE

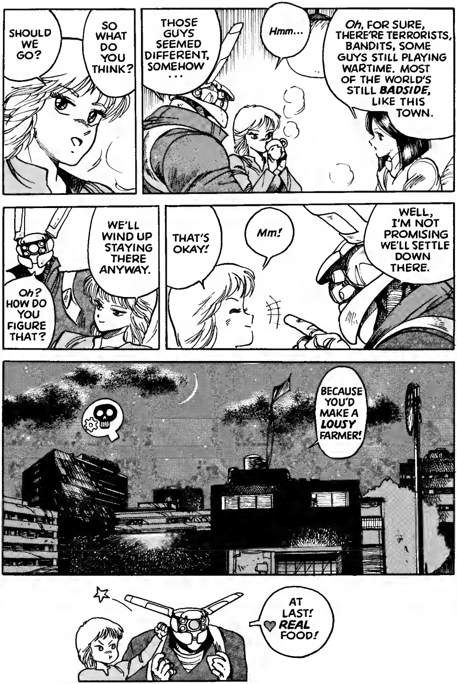

Hm?
*FX WSHH
BATTLE ARMOR DOWN... ONLY ONE GRENADE LEFT...
I *HATE* THIS! IT'S NOT FUNNY *AT ALL!*
?
*FX GNGNGN

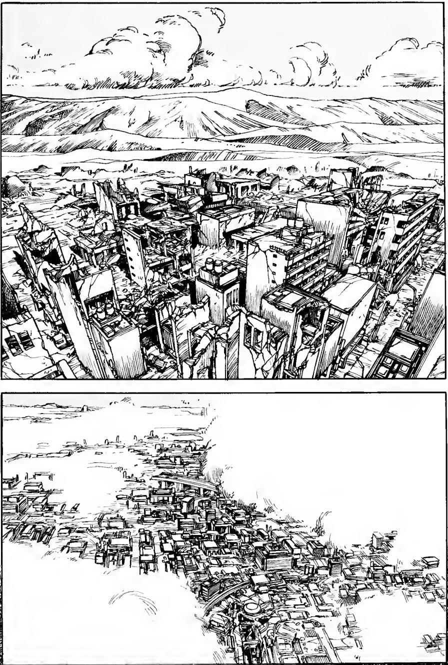

*FX CLIK CLIK
EMPTY!
チチ!
*FX KANG
!!
!
*FX WHSSSTT
*FX CHNK CHNK

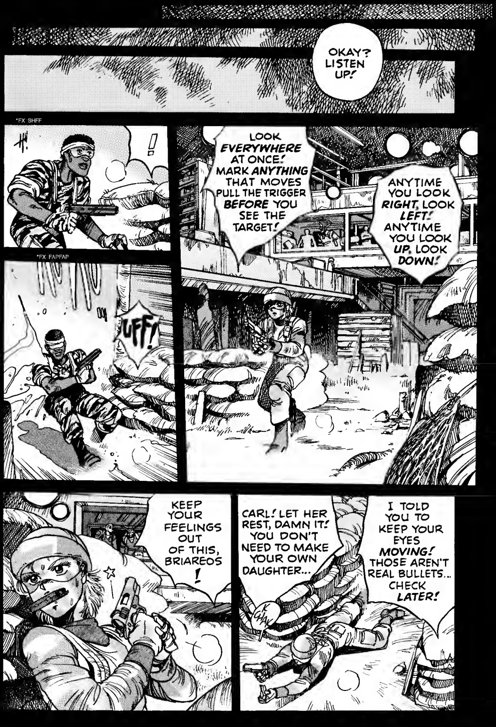

SEE YOU IN HELL, BOYS.
ぽい!
*FX VRRTT
I'VE GOT HIM NOW!
*FX CLIK
*FX KLT KLT
Huh?
ころころ
DANGER
*FX VRRT
WHAT?
Huh? WHADJA SAY?
*FX WHBOOM

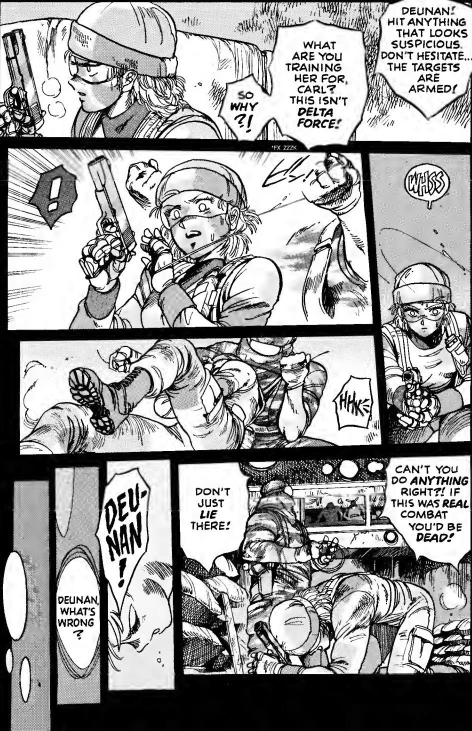

*FX. WHOK
GHH!
*PAK
パチ
*PAK
パチ
*PAK
パチ
*KRMM
SKREE
?
WHOOO...
THAT'S IT?!
WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T ASK ME!
TA-DAA!

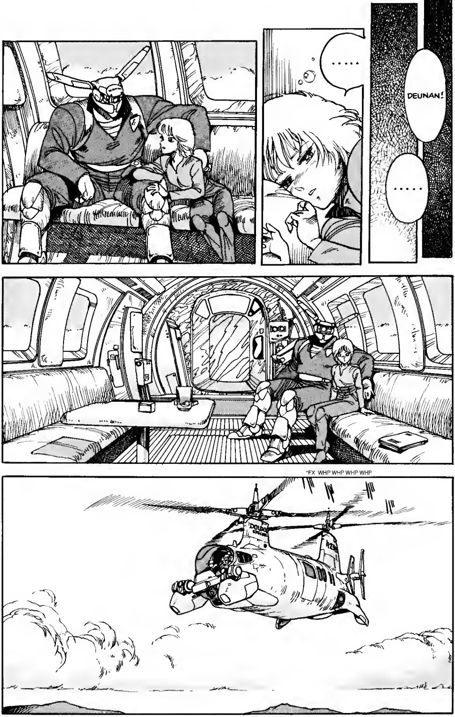

THE EARTH'S BEEN *UNIFIED* BY THIS "CENTRAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU"?!
NOW IT'S THE CMB, *AEGIS* WE CALL THEM, LOOKING AFTER THE WHOLE PLANET.
CHECK!
SO NO ONE COUNTRY CAME OUT ON TOP?
HOLD ON. I THOUGHT YOU SAID "TOTAL DISARMAMENT." THAT WAS A PRETTY TOUGH BUNCH OUT THERE...
WE... WE HAD *NO* IDEA!
THEN, AS PART OF THE PLAN, WE'VE BEEN COMING OUT TO BADSIDE HERE, LOOKING FOR SOLOS LIKE YOU AND BRINGING THEM BACK TO OLYMPUS CITY, WHERE *AEGIS* IS SET UP.
OF COURSE, OTHER THAN TOTAL DISARMAMENT AND THE SUPERVISION OF TRADE AND ECONOMY, EVERY COUNTRY'S PRETTY MUCH FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.


Oh, FOR SURE, THERE'RE TERRORISTS, BANDITS, SOME GUYS STILL PLAYING WARTIME. MOST OF THE WORLD'S STILL ***BADSIDE***, LIKE THIS TOWN.
Hmm...
THOSE GUYS SEEMED DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW . . .
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHOULD WE GO?
WELL, I'M NOT PROMISING WE'LL SETTLE DOWN THERE.
Mm!
THAT'S OKAY!
WE'LL WIND UP STAYING THERE ANYWAY.
Oh? HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?
BECAUSE YOU'D MAKE A ***LOUSY*** FARMER!
AT LAST! ***REAL*** FOOD!

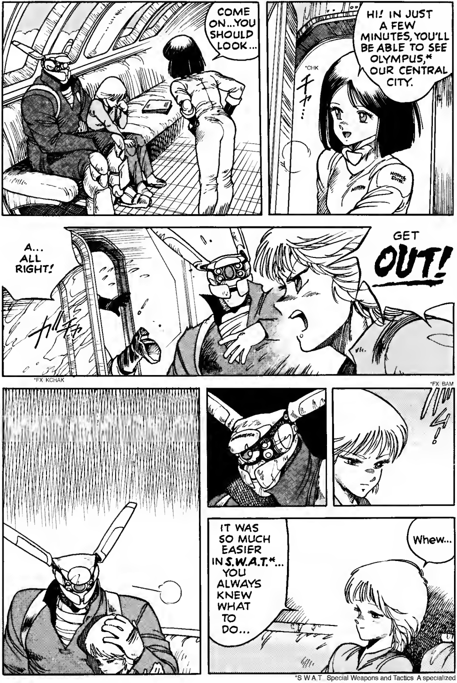



OKAY? LISTEN UP!
*FX SHFF
!
LOOK EVERYWHERE AT ONCE! MARK ANYTHING THAT MOVES PULL THE TRIGGER BEFORE YOU SEE THE TARGET!
ANYTIME YOU LOOK RIGHT, LOOK LEFT! ANYTIME YOU LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN!
*FX FAPFAP
UFF!
KEEP YOUR FEELINGS OUT OF THIS, BRIAREOS!
CARL! LET HER REST, DAMN IT! YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN DAUGHTER...
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING! THOSE AREN'T REAL BULLETS... CHECK LATER!
KGYAH

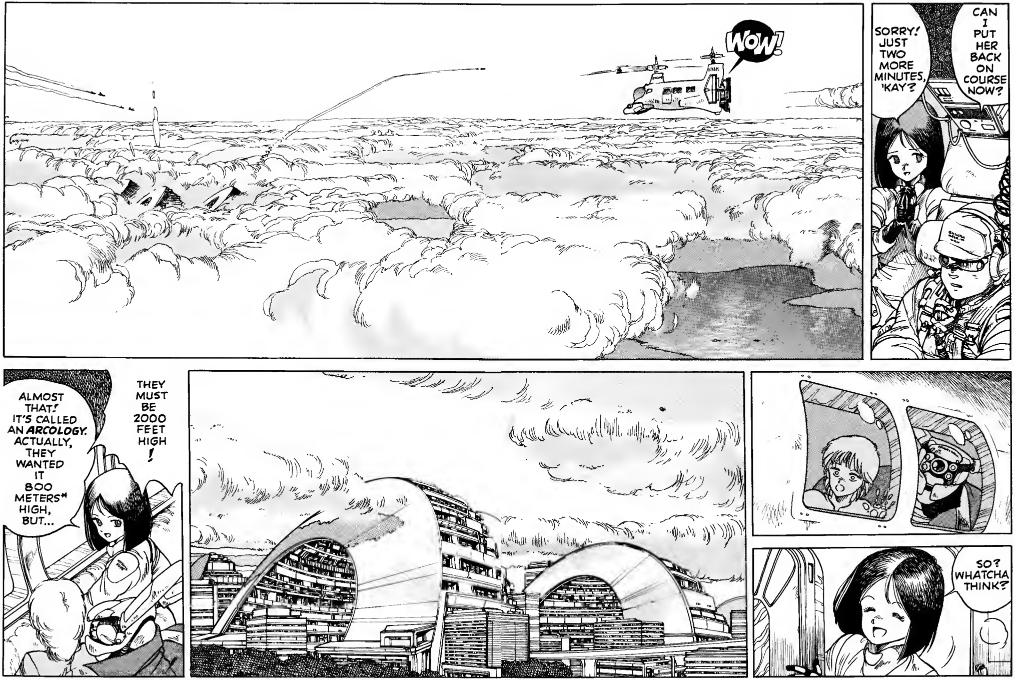

DEUNAN! HIT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS. DON'T HESITATE... THE TARGETS ARE ARMED!
WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING HER FOR, CARL? THIS ISN'T *DELTA FORCE!*
SO *WHY ?!*
*FX ZZZK
!
WHSS
HHK
CAN'T YOU DO *ANYTHING* RIGHT?! IF THIS WAS *REAL* COMBAT YOU'D BE *DEAD!*
DON'T JUST *LIE* THERE!
DEU-NAN!
DEUNAN, WHAT'S WRONG?


DEUNAN!
......
.....
*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP

*Olympus: here, the name of the city where the Comprehensive Administration Bureau is. Also the name of a mountain located in northern Greece, the country's highest peak at 2885m, on whose summit the gods lived in Greek mythology.

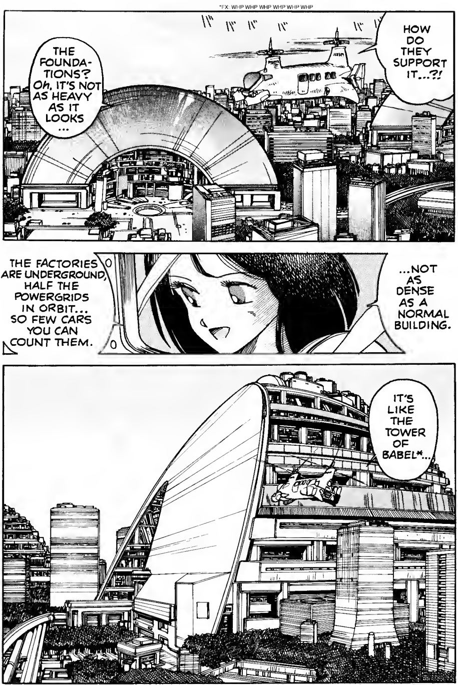

COME ON...YOU SHOULD LOOK...
HI! IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE OLYMPUS,* OUR CENTRAL CITY.
*CHK
チャ…
A... ALL RIGHT!
GET OUT!
ガチャ
*FX KCHAK
*FX BAM
IT WAS SO MUCH EASIER IN S.W.A.T.*... YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHAT TO DO...
Whew...

*S.W.A.T.: Special Weapons and Tactics. A specialized police unit that carries out dangerous operations.


CAN I PUT HER BACK ON COURSE NOW?
SORRY! JUST TWO MORE MINUTES, 'KAY?
WOW!
SO? WHATCHA THINK?
THEY MUST BE 2000 FEET HIGH!
ALMOST THAT! IT'S CALLED AN *ARCOLOGY.* ACTUALLY, THEY WANTED IT 800 METERS* HIGH, BUT...

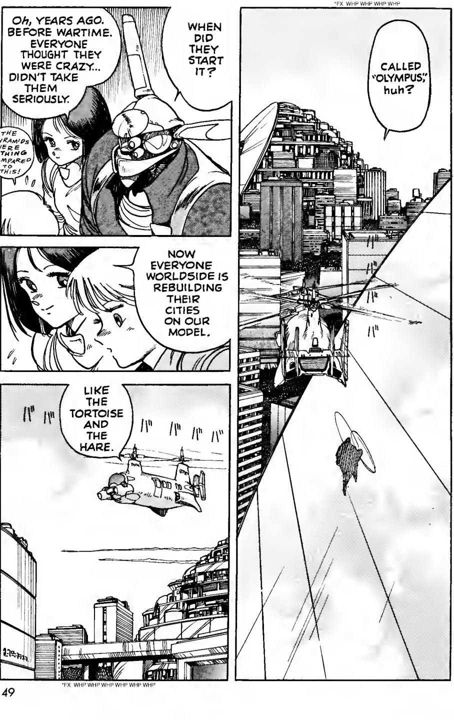
*800 meters=2626 feet

*FX: WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

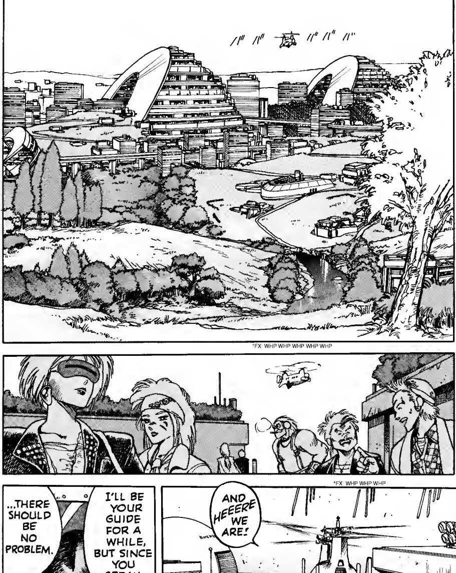

HOW DO THEY SUPPORT IT...?!
THE FOUNDATIONS? *Oh*, IT'S NOT AS HEAVY AS IT LOOKS...
...NOT AS DENSE AS A NORMAL BUILDING.
THE FACTORIES ARE UNDERGROUND, HALF THE POWERGRIDS IN ORBIT... SO FEW CARS YOU CAN COUNT THEM.
IT'S LIKE THE TOWER OF BABEL*...

*Tower of Babel: a large, seven-story monument called Etemenanki in ancient Babylon, enshrining the god Marduk, boasting of a height of about 90m. It's also famous in an Old Testament story of a huge tower that reaches the heavens.

*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP

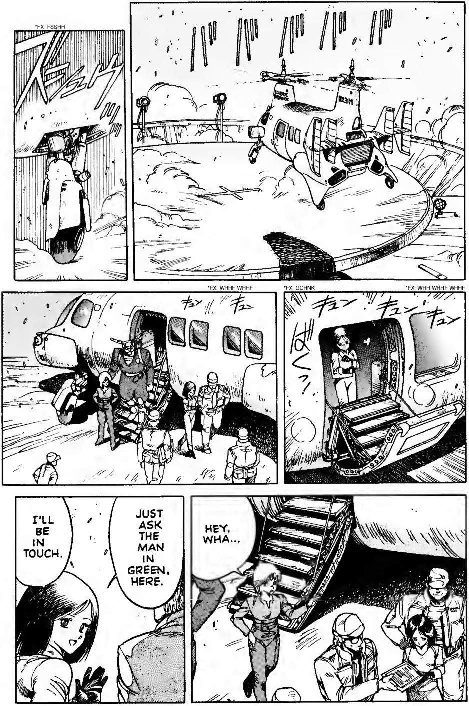

CALLED "OLYMPUS," huh?
WHEN DID THEY START IT?
Oh, YEARS AGO. BEFORE WARTIME. EVERYONE THOUGHT THEY WERE CRAZY... DIDN'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY.
THE PYRAMIDS WERE NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS!
NOW EVERYONE WORLDSIDE IS REBUILDING THEIR CITIES ON OUR MODEL.
LIKE THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE.

*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP


AND HEEERE WE ARE!
I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR A WHILE, BUT SINCE YOU SPEAK ENGLISH...
...THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

*FX WHP WHP WHP


バババババ
ズシュ
キュン キュン キュン
ばくっ
キュン キュン
HEY. WHA...
JUST ASK THE MAN IN GREEN, HERE.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

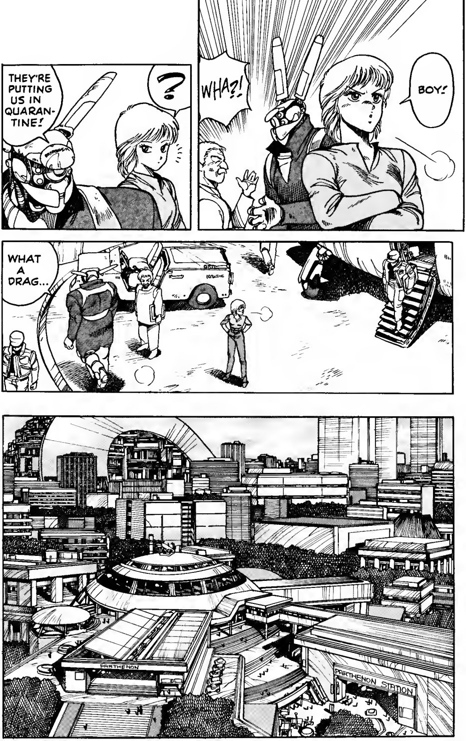
*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

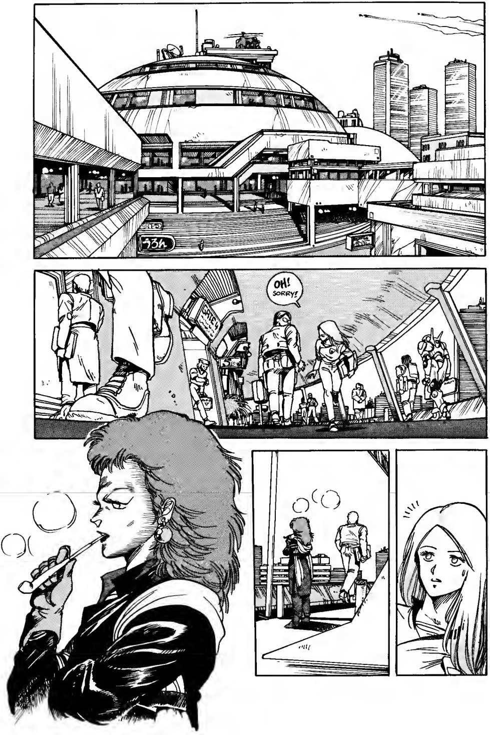
*FX FSSHH

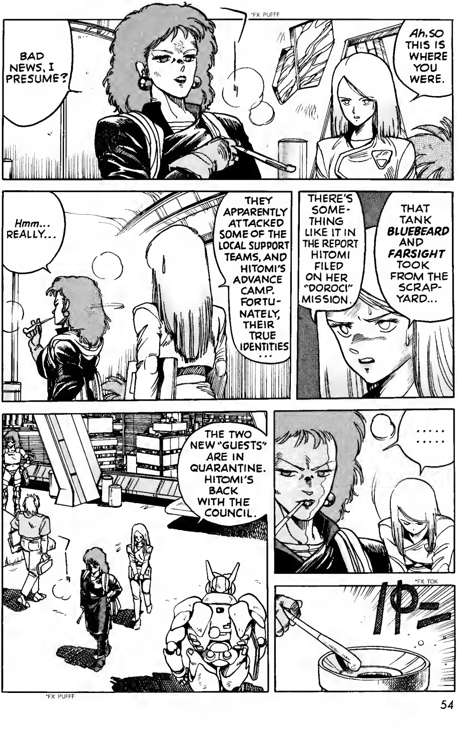
*FX WHH WHHF WHHF

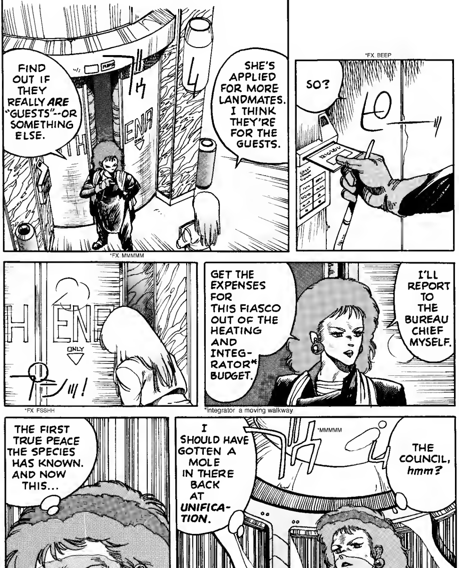
*FX GCHNK

*FX WHHF WHHF

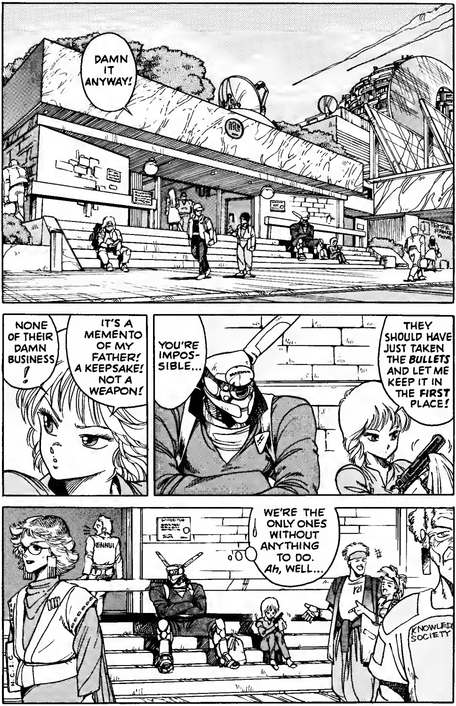

THEY'RE PUTTING US IN QUARANTINE!
?
WHA?!
BOY!
WHAT A DRAG...
PARTHENON
PARTHENON STATION

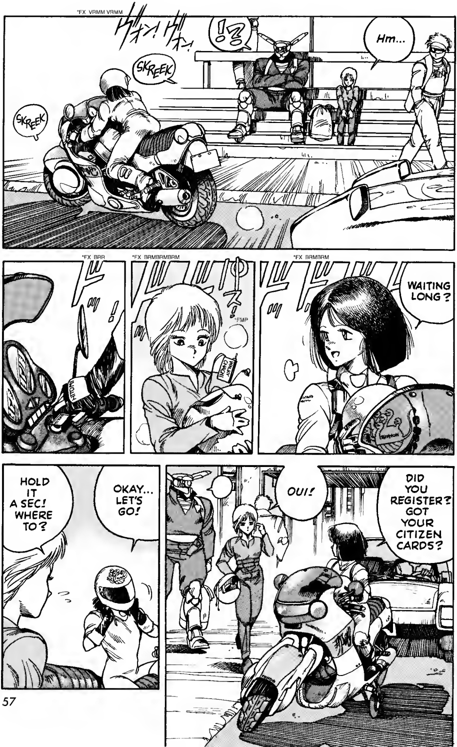

うろん
OH! SORRY!
GATE4

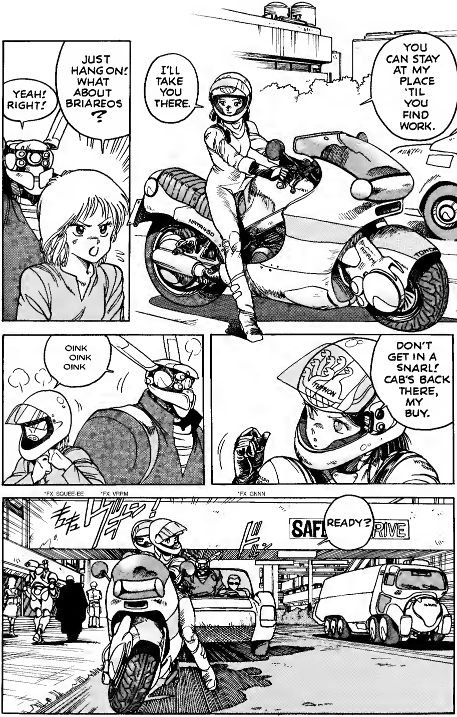

*FX PUFFF
Ah, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE.
BAD NEWS, I PRESUME?
THAT TANK ***BLUEBEARD*** AND ***FARSIGHT*** TOOK FROM THE SCRAPYARD...
THERE'S SOMETHING LIKE IT IN THE REPORT HITOMI FILED ON HER "DOROCI" MISSION.
THEY APPARENTLY ATTACKED SOME OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT TEAMS, AND HITOMI'S ADVANCE CAMP. FORTUNATELY, THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES ...
Hmm... REALLY...
....
*FX TOK
THE TWO NEW "GUESTS" ARE IN QUARANTINE. HITOMI'S BACK WITH THE COUNCIL.
*FX PUFFF

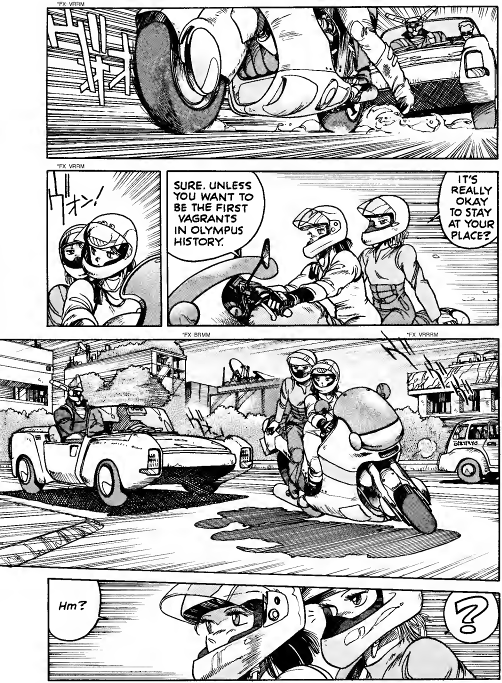

FIND OUT IF THEY REALLY *ARE* "GUESTS"--OR SOMETHING ELSE.
SHE'S APPLIED FOR MORE LANDMATES. I THINK THEY'RE FOR THE GUESTS.
*FX MMMMM
*FX BEEP
SO?
*FX FSHH
ONLY
GET THE EXPENSES FOR THIS FIASCO OUT OF THE HEATING AND INTEGRATOR* BUDGET.
I'LL REPORT TO THE BUREAU CHIEF MYSELF.
THE FIRST TRUE PEACE THE SPECIES HAS KNOWN. AND NOW THIS...
I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A MOLE IN THERE BACK AT *UNIFICATION*.
*MMMMM
THE COUNCIL, *hmm?*

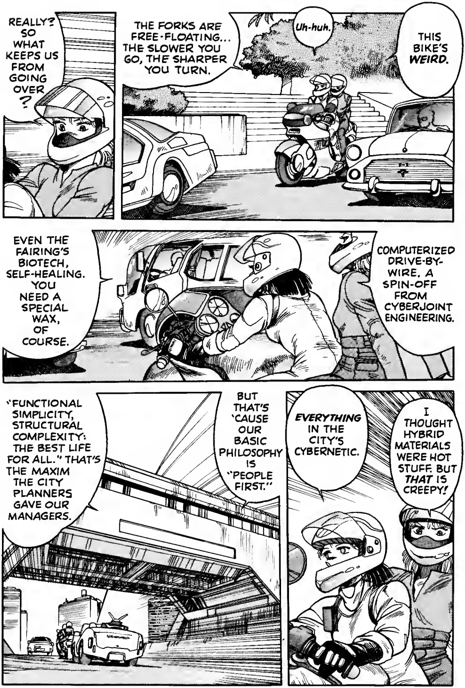
*integrator a moving walkway

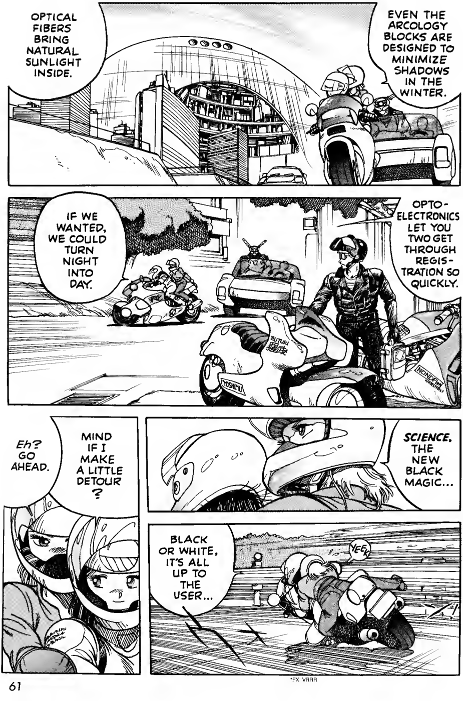

DAMN IT ANYWAY!
NONE OF THEIR DAMN BUSINESS!
IT'S A MEMENTO OF MY FATHER! A KEEPSAKE! NOT A WEAPON!
YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE...
THEY SHOULD HAVE JUST TAKEN THE **BULLETS** AND LET ME KEEP IT IN THE **FIRST** PLACE!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DO. *Ah,* WELL...
N.C.I.C
KNOWLEDG SOCIETY


*FX VRMM VRMM
Hm...
!?
ヴォン！ヴォン！
SKREEK
SKREEK
*FX BRMBRM
WAITING LONG?
*FX BRMBRMBRM
*FMP
WALKY CHACHI
*FX BRR
!
DID YOU REGISTER? GOT YOUR CITIZEN CARDS?
OUI!
OKAY... LET'S GO!
HOLD IT A SEC! WHERE TO?

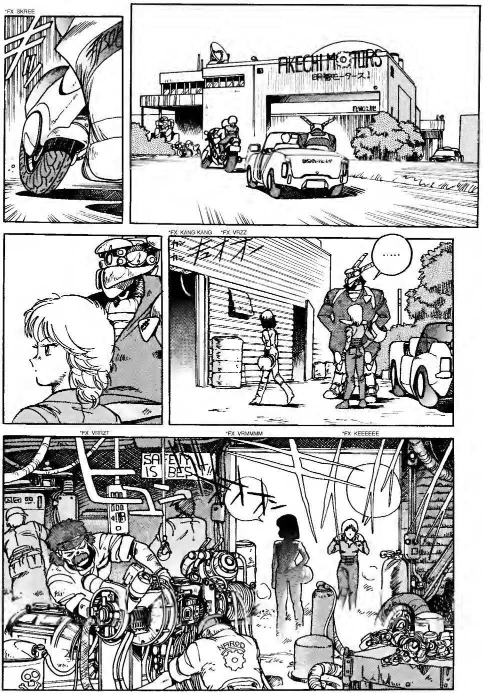

YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE 'TIL YOU FIND WORK.
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.
JUST HANG ON! WHAT ABOUT BRIAREOS?
YEAH! RIGHT!
NATA450
DON'T GET IN A SNARL! CAB'S BACK THERE, MY BUY.
TYPHON
OINK OINK OINK
*FX SQUEE-EE
*FX VRRM
*FX GNNN
SAFI
READY?
RIVE

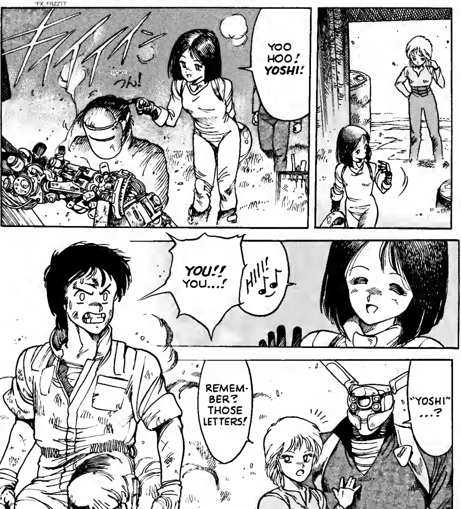

*FX VRRM
IT'S REALLY OKAY TO STAY AT YOUR PLACE?
SURE. UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE THE FIRST VAGRANTS IN OLYMPUS HISTORY.
ヴォン!
*FX VRRM
*FX VRRRM
*FX BRMM
?
Hm?


THIS BIKE'S *WEIRD.*
Uh-huh.
THE FORKS ARE FREE-FLOATING... THE SLOWER YOU GO, THE SHARPER YOU TURN.
REALLY? SO WHAT KEEPS US FROM GOING OVER?
COMPUTERIZED DRIVE-BY-WIRE. A SPIN-OFF FROM CYBERJOINT ENGINEERING.
EVEN THE FAIRING'S BIOTECH, SELF-HEALING. YOU NEED A SPECIAL WAX, OF COURSE.
I THOUGHT HYBRID MATERIALS WERE HOT STUFF. BUT *THAT* IS CREEPY!
EVERYTHING IN THE CITY'S CYBERNETIC.
BUT THAT'S 'CAUSE OUR BASIC PHILOSOPHY IS "PEOPLE FIRST."
"FUNCTIONAL SIMPLICITY, STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY: THE BEST LIFE FOR ALL." THAT'S THE MAXIM THE CITY PLANNERS GAVE OUR MANAGERS.


EVEN THE ARCOLOGY BLOCKS ARE DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE SHADOWS IN THE WINTER.
OPTICAL FIBERS BRING NATURAL SUNLIGHT INSIDE.
OPTO-ELECTRONICS LET YOU TWO GET THROUGH REGISTRATION SO QUICKLY.
IF WE WANTED, WE COULD TURN NIGHT INTO DAY.
SUZUKI
羅武
YOSHIMU
NONDAM
SCIENCE, THE NEW BLACK MAGIC...
MIND IF I MAKE A LITTLE DETOUR?
Eh? GO AHEAD.
BLACK OR WHITE, IT'S ALL UP TO THE USER...
YEEK

*FX VRRR


*FX SKREE
AKECHI MOTORS
明智モーターズ
*FX KANG KANG
*FX VRZZ
……
*FX VRRZT
SAFETY IS BEST!!
*FX VRMMMM
*FX KEEEEEE
NAROD

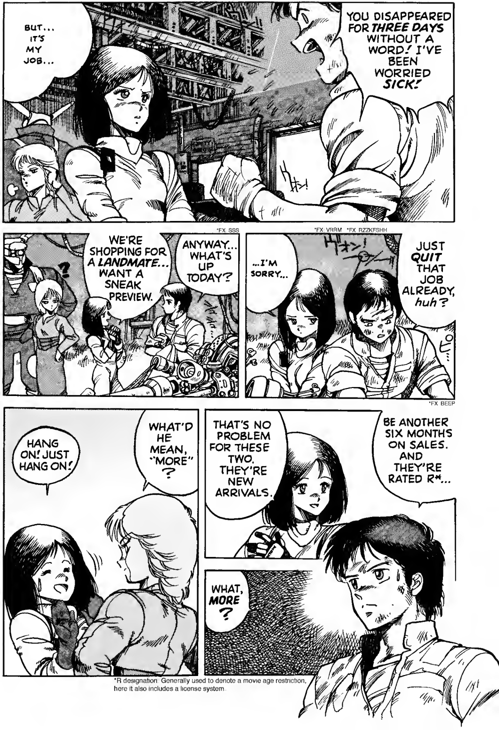

*FX: FRZZTT
*POKE
つん!
YOO HOO! YOSHI!
YOU!! YOU...!
HI!! ♪♪
REMEMBER? THOSE LETTERS!
"YOSHI" ...?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WH... WHAT'S WRONG?
TUNK

*FX VRRM VRRM VRRM

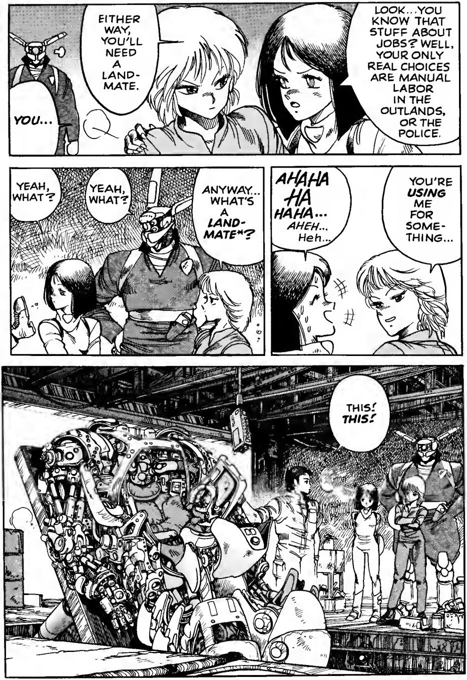
*FX SSS

*FX VRRM *FX RZZKFSHH

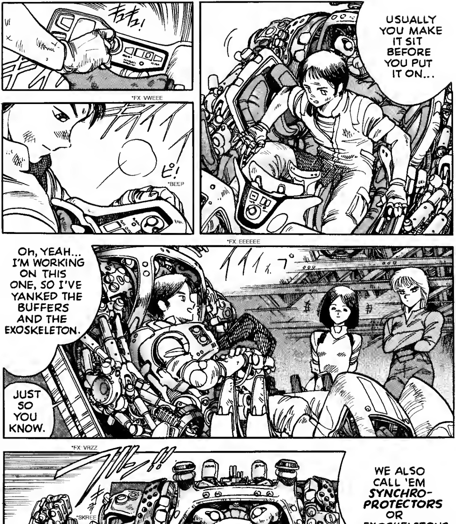
*FX BEEP

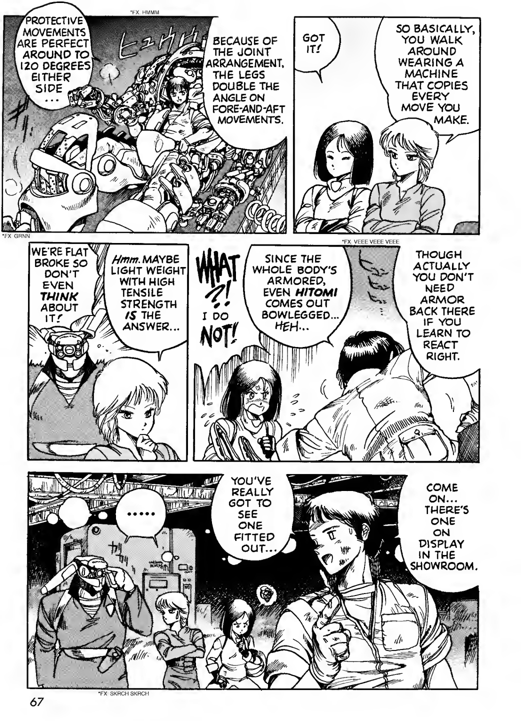

YOU DISAPPEARED FOR *THREE DAYS* WITHOUT A WORD! I'VE BEEN WORRIED *SICK!*
BUT... IT'S MY JOB...
WE'RE SHOPPING FOR A *LANDMATE...* WANT A SNEAK PREVIEW.
ANYWAY... WHAT'S UP TODAY?
...I'M SORRY...
JUST *QUIT* THAT JOB ALREADY, *huh?*
BE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS ON SALES. AND THEY'RE RATED R*...
THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR THESE TWO. THEY'RE NEW ARRIVALS.
WHAT, *MORE*?
WHAT'D HE MEAN, "MORE"?
HANG ON! JUST HANG ON!

*R designation: Generally used to denote a movie age restriction, here it also includes a license system.


LOOK...YOU KNOW THAT STUFF ABOUT JOBS? WELL, YOUR ONLY REAL CHOICES ARE MANUAL LABOR IN THE OUTLANDS, OR THE POLICE.
EITHER WAY, YOU'LL NEED A LAND-MATE.
YOU...
ANYWAY... WHAT'S A *LANDMATE**?
YEAH, WHAT?
YEAH, WHAT?
YOU'RE *USING* ME FOR SOMETHING...
AHAHA HA HAHA... *AHEH...* Heh...
THIS! *THIS!*

*landmate: the history of this kind of machine is surprisingly deep, and even now GE is working hard at development. A certain suit is famous for fighting a spider.


*FX VVVV
*FX KCHIK
*FX VWEEE
ピ!
*BEEP
USUALLY YOU MAKE IT SIT BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON...
*FX EEEEEE
Oh, YEAH... I'M WORKING ON THIS ONE, SO I'VE YANKED THE BUFFERS AND THE EXOSKELETON.
JUST SO YOU KNOW.
*FX VRZZ
*SKREE
WE ALSO CALL 'EM *SYNCHRO-PROTECTORS* OR EXOSKELETONS, SEE?

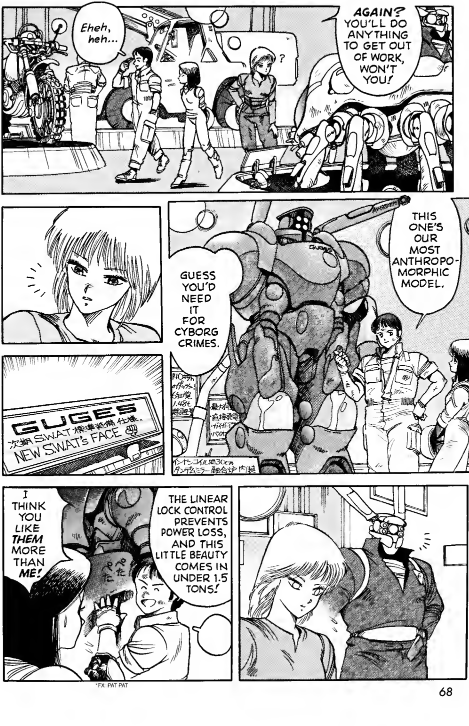

PROTECTIVE MOVEMENTS ARE PERFECT AROUND TO 120 DEGREES EITHER SIDE . . .
BECAUSE OF THE JOINT ARRANGEMENT, THE LEGS DOUBLE THE ANGLE ON FORE-AND-AFT MOVEMENTS.
GOT IT!
SO BASICALLY, YOU WALK AROUND WEARING A MACHINE THAT COPIES EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE.
WE'RE FLAT BROKE SO DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
Hmm. MAYBE LIGHT WEIGHT WITH HIGH TENSILE STRENGTH IS THE ANSWER...
WHAT ?!
I DO NOT!
SINCE THE WHOLE BODY'S ARMORED, EVEN HITOMI COMES OUT BOWLEGGED... HEH...
THOUGH ACTUALLY YOU DON'T NEED ARMOR BACK THERE IF YOU LEARN TO REACT RIGHT.
.....
YOU'VE REALLY GOT TO SEE ONE FITTED OUT...
COME ON... THERE'S ONE ON DISPLAY IN THE SHOWROOM.

*FX HMMM

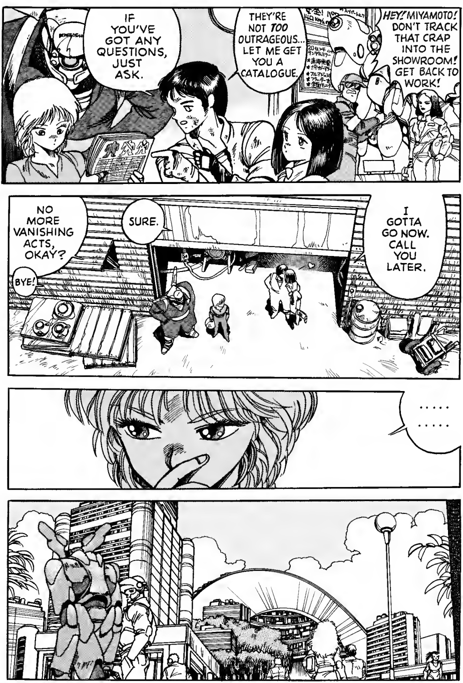
*FX GRNN

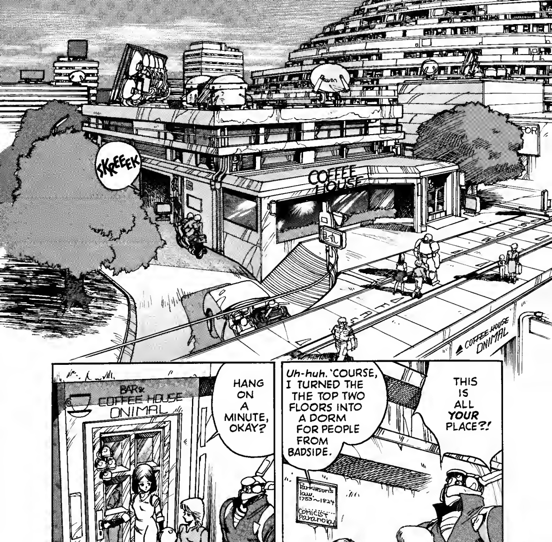
*FX VEEE VEEE VEEE

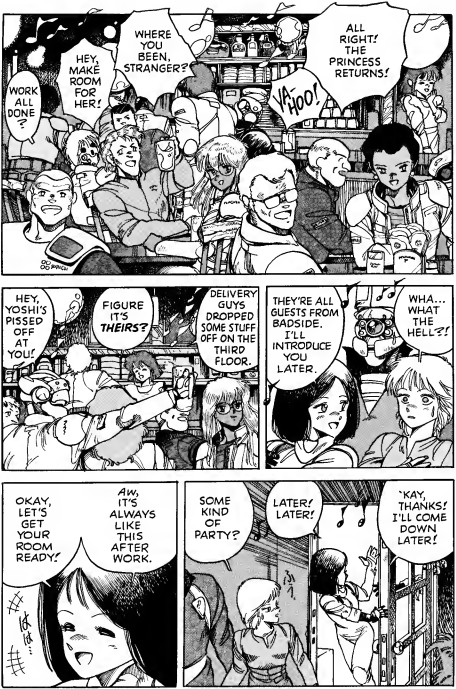
*FX SKRCH SKRCH


Eheh, heh...
AGAIN? YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF WORK, WON'T YOU!
?
A-SYSTEM
GUGES
THIS ONE'S OUR MOST ANTHROPOMORPHIC MODEL.
GUESS YOU'D NEED IT FOR CYBORG CRIMES.
140キロ/h のダッシュ! 6知覚 1.48t 超軽量
・直接発電
インヤンコイル間30cm タンデムミラー融合炉 内装
GUGES 次期S.W.A.T標準装備仕様 NEW S.W.A.T's FACE 型
THE LINEAR LOCK CONTROL PREVENTS POWER LOSS, AND THIS LITTLE BEAUTY COMES IN UNDER 1.5 TONS!
I THINK YOU LIKE *THEM* MORE THAN *ME!*
ぺた ぺた

*FX: PAT PAT

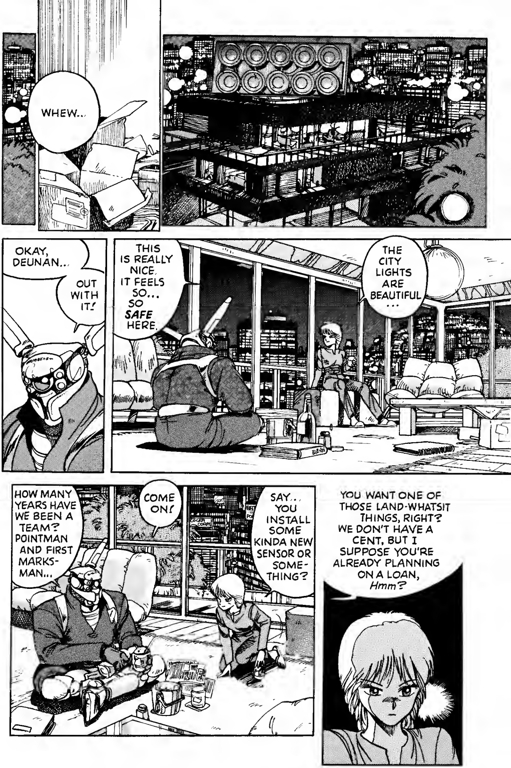

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK.
THEY'RE NOT *TOO* OUTRAGEOUS... LET ME GET YOU A CATALOGUE.
HEY! MIYAMOTO! DON'T TRACK THAT CRAP INTO THE SHOWROOM! GET BACK TO WORK!
NO MORE VANISHING ACTS, OKAY?
SURE.
BYE!
I GOTTA GO NOW. CALL YOU LATER.
.....
.....

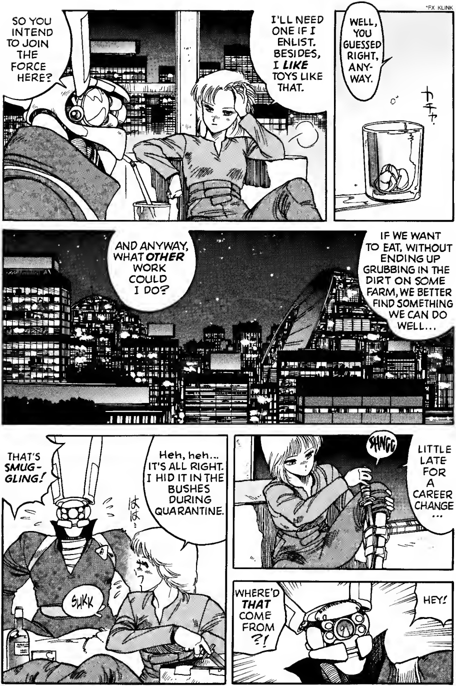

SKREEEK
COFFEE HOUSE
COFFEE HOUSE ONIMAL
BAR & COFFEE HOUSE ONIMAL
HANG ON A MINUTE, OKAY?
CHA!
THIS IS ALL *YOUR* PLACE?!
Uh-huh. 'COURSE, I TURNED THE TOP TWO FLOORS INTO A DORM FOR PEOPLE FROM BADSIDE.
Parkinson's law. 1753~1824
Comicist Paranoia


ALL RIGHT! THE PRINCESS RETURNS!
YA-HOO!
WHERE YOU BEEN, STRANGER?
HEY, MAKE ROOM FOR HER!
WORK ALL DONE?
WHA... WHAT THE HELL?!
THEY'RE ALL GUESTS FROM BADSIDE. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU LATER.
DELIVERY GUYS DROPPED SOME STUFF OFF ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
FIGURE IT'S *THEIRS?*
HEY, YOSHI'S PISSED OFF AT YOU!
'KAY, THANKS! I'LL COME DOWN LATER!
LATER! LATER!
SOME KIND OF PARTY?
ふう…
AW, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS AFTER WORK.
OKAY, LET'S GET YOUR ROOM READY!
はは…

*FX HA HA

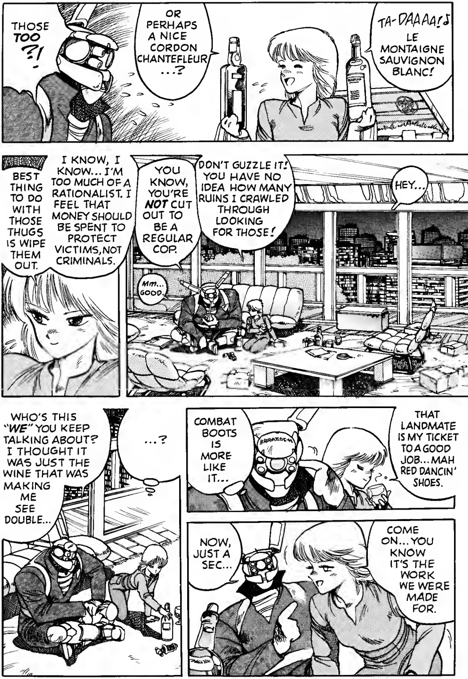
*FX WHEW

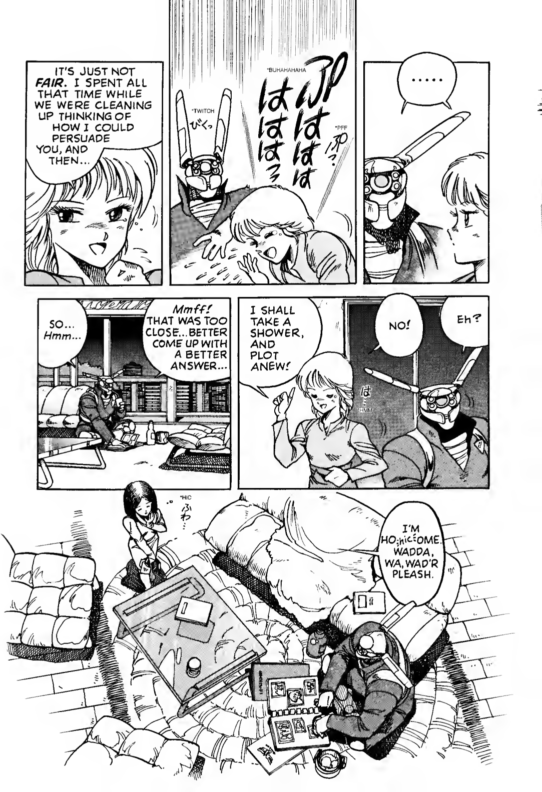

WHEW...
OKAY, DEUNAN...
OUT WITH IT!
THIS IS REALLY NICE, IT FEELS SO... SO *SAFE* HERE.
THE CITY LIGHTS ARE BEAUTIFUL...
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE BEEN A TEAM? POINTMAN AND FIRST MARKSMAN...
COME ON!
SAY... YOU INSTALL SOME KINDA NEW SENSOR OR SOMETHING?
YOU WANT ONE OF THOSE LAND-WHATSIT THINGS, RIGHT? WE DON'T HAVE A CENT, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'RE ALREADY PLANNING ON A LOAN, *Hmm?*

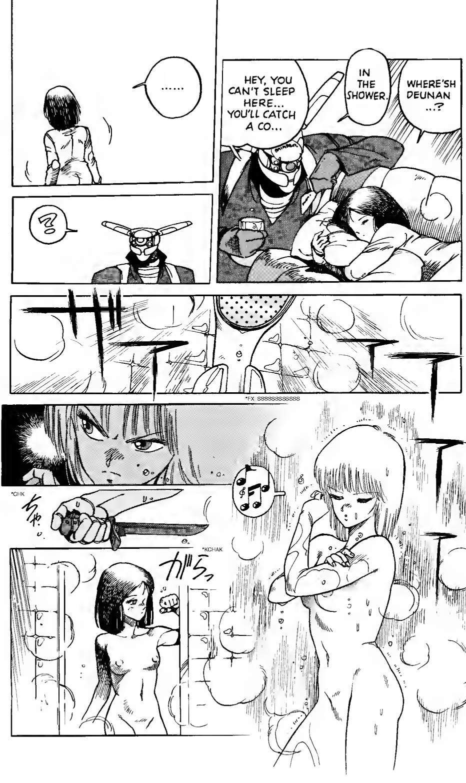

SO YOU INTEND TO JOIN THE FORCE HERE?
I'LL NEED ONE IF I ENLIST. BESIDES, I ***LIKE*** TOYS LIKE THAT.
WELL, YOU GUESSED RIGHT, ANYWAY.
カチャ
AND ANYWAY, WHAT ***OTHER*** WORK COULD I DO?
IF WE WANT TO EAT, WITHOUT ENDING UP GRUBBING IN THE DIRT ON SOME FARM, WE BETTER FIND SOMETHING WE CAN DO WELL...
THAT'S ***SMUGGLING!***
Heh, heh... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HID IT IN THE BUSHES DURING QUARANTINE.
はは
SHKK
SHNGG
LITTLE LATE FOR A CAREER CHANGE...
WHERE'D ***THAT*** COME FROM?!
HEY!

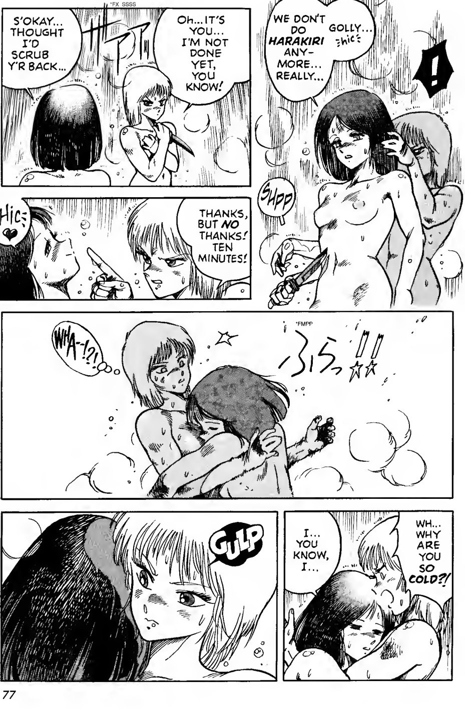
*FX KLINK

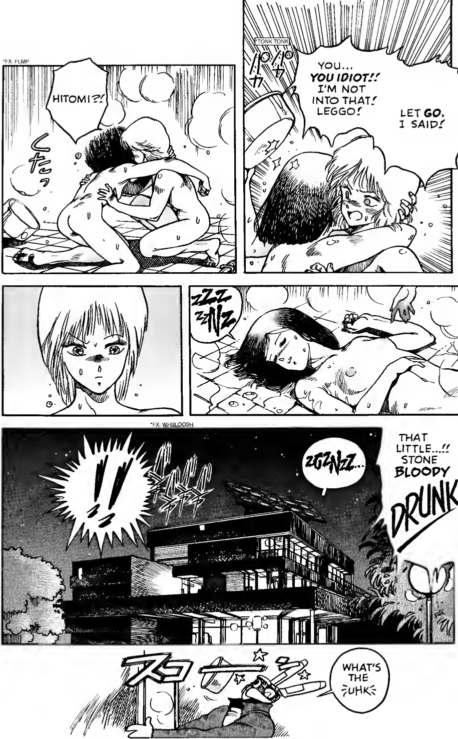
*FX HAHA

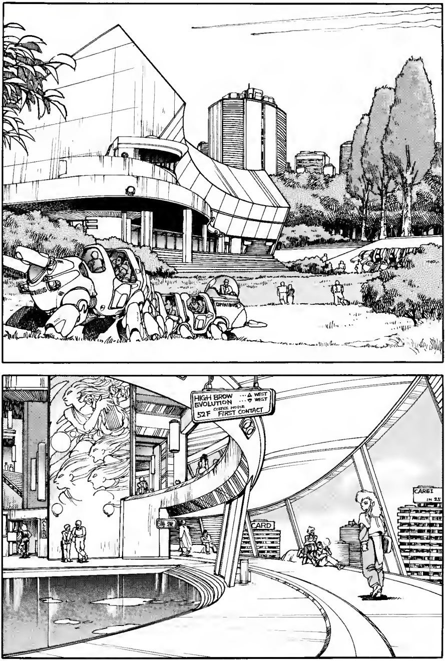

TA-DAAAA! LE MONTAIGNE SAUVIGNON BLANC!
OR PERHAPS A NICE CORDON CHANTEFLEUR...?
THOSE *TOO* ?!
HEY...
DON'T GUZZLE IT! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY RUINS I CRAWLED THROUGH LOOKING FOR THOSE!
Mm... GOOD.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE *NOT* CUT OUT TO BE A REGULAR COP.
I KNOW, I KNOW... I'M TOO MUCH OF A RATIONALIST. I FEEL THAT MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT TO PROTECT VICTIMS, NOT CRIMINALS.
BEST THING TO DO WITH THOSE THUGS IS WIPE THEM OUT.
THAT LANDMATE IS MY TICKET TO A GOOD JOB... MAH RED DANCIN' SHOES.
COMBAT BOOTS IS MORE LIKE IT...
COME ON... YOU KNOW IT'S THE WORK WE WERE MADE FOR.
NOW, JUST A SEC...
...?
WHO'S THIS "*WE*" YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT? I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE WINE THAT WAS MAKING ME SEE DOUBLE...

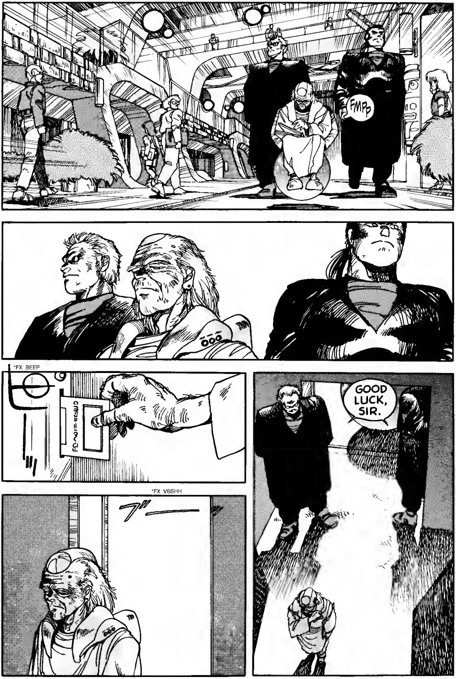

IT'S JUST NOT FAIR. I SPENT ALL THAT TIME WHILE WE WERE CLEANING UP THINKING OF HOW I COULD PERSUADE YOU, AND THEN...
*TWITCH びくっ
*BUHAHAHAHA ぷはははははっ
*PFF ぷっ
.....
SO... Hmm...
Mmff! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE...BETTER COME UP WITH A BETTER ANSWER...
I SHALL TAKE A SHOWER, AND PLOT ANEW!
NO!
Eh?
は *HMM
*HIC ふわ…
I'M HO-hic-OME. WADDA, WA, WAD'R PLEASH.

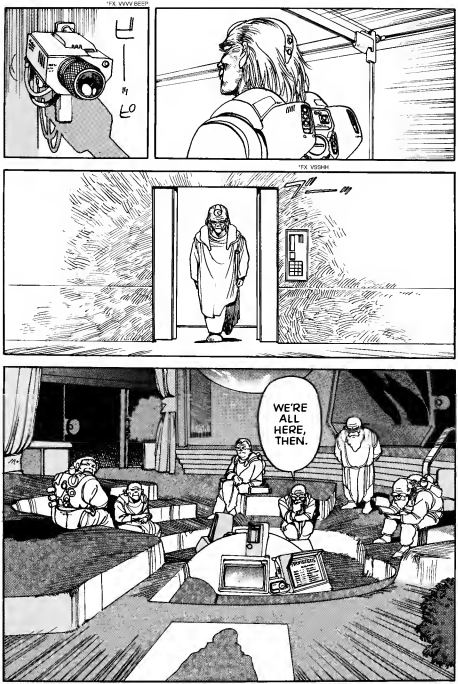

WHERE'SH DEUNAN ...?
IN THE SHOWER.
HEY, YOU CAN'T SLEEP HERE... YOU'LL CATCH A CO...
......
?
*FX SSSSSSSSSSSS
ちゃ
*CHK
ガらっ
*KCHAK

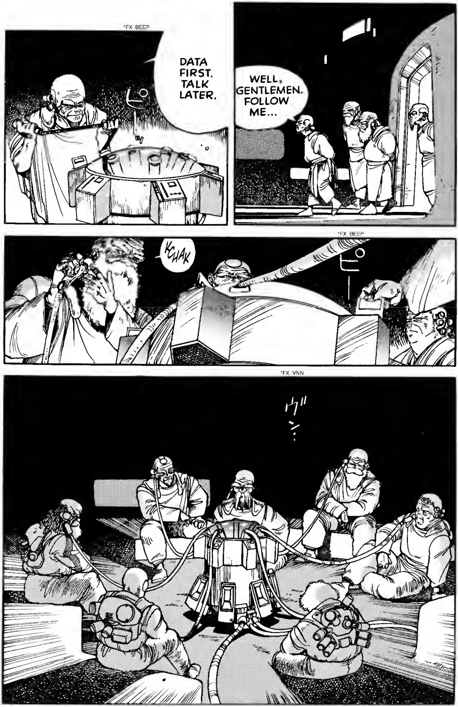

*FX SSSS
ザアア
Oh...IT'S YOU... I'M NOT DONE YET, YOU KNOW!
S'OKAY... THOUGHT I'D SCRUB Y'R BACK...
Hic
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS! TEN MINUTES!
WE DON'T DO HARAKIRI ANYMORE... REALLY...
GOLLY... hic
!
SHPP
WHA--!?!
*FMPP
ふらっ
!!
GULP
WH... WHY ARE YOU SO COLD?!
I... YOU KNOW, I...

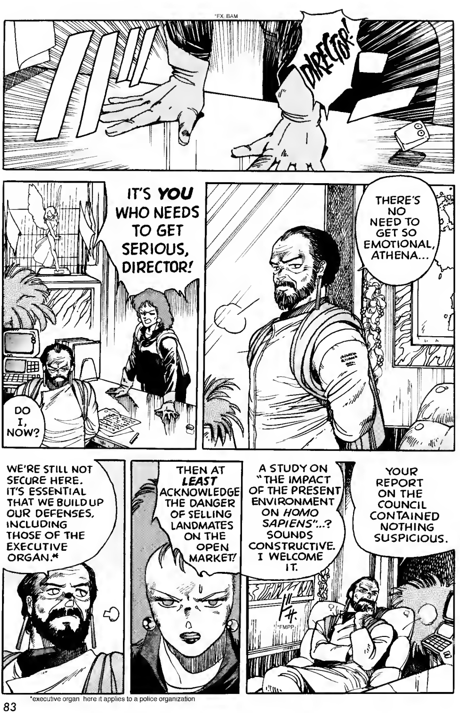

*TONK TONK
YOU... YOU IDIOT!! I'M NOT INTO THAT! LEGGO!
LET GO, I SAID!
*FX: FLMP
HITOMI?!
くたっ
ZZZ ZZNZ
*FX WHBLOOSH
!!
ZZZNZZ...
THAT LITTLE...!! STONE BLOODY DRUNK!
スコーン
*FX GONGG
WHAT'S THE UHK


OMNIBUS
OMNIBUS
HIGH BROW ···▲ WEST
EVOLUTION ···▼ WEST
52F COFFEE HOUSE FIRST CONTACT
CARD
CAREI IN 25


FMPP
*FX BEEP
GOOD LUCK, SIR.
*FX VSSHH
ブ—

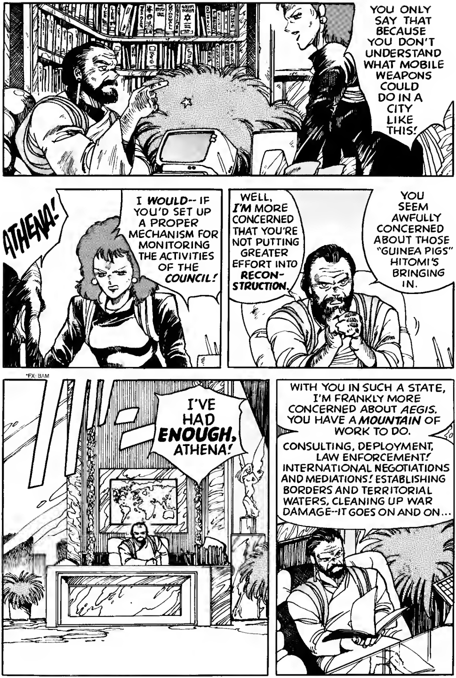

*FX VVVV BEEP
*FX VSSHH
WE'RE ALL HERE, THEN.

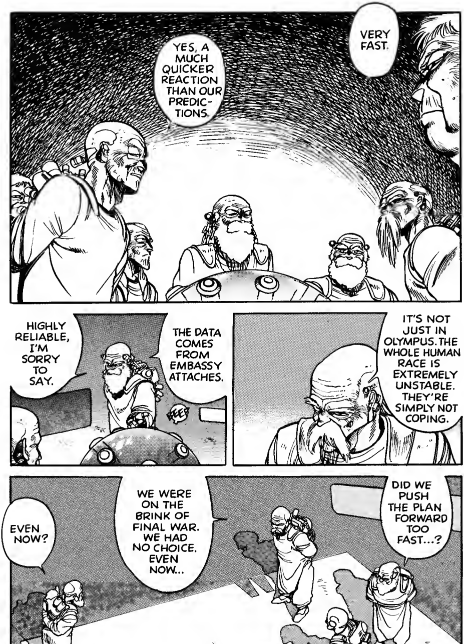

WELL, GENTLEMEN. FOLLOW ME...
DATA FIRST. TALK LATER.
ピ
*FX BEEP
KCHAK
ピー
*FX BEEP
ヴン
*FX VNN

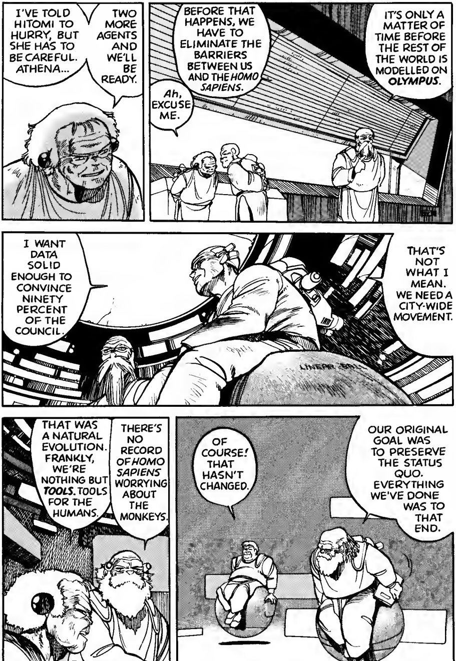

*FX BAM
DIRECTOR!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET SO EMOTIONAL, ATHENA...
IT'S ***YOU*** WHO NEEDS TO GET SERIOUS, DIRECTOR!
DO I, NOW?
YOUR REPORT ON THE COUNCIL CONTAINED NOTHING SUSPICIOUS.
A STUDY ON "THE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT ON *HOMO SAPIENS*"...? SOUNDS CONSTRUCTIVE. I WELCOME IT.
*FMPP
THEN AT ***LEAST*** ACKNOWLEDGE THE DANGER OF SELLING LANDMATES ON THE OPEN MARKET!
WE'RE STILL NOT SECURE HERE. IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE BUILD UP OUR DEFENSES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN.*

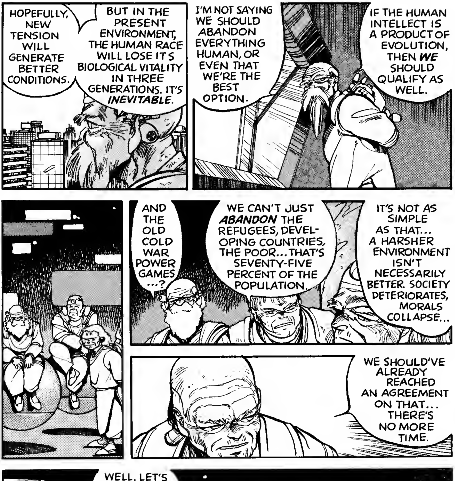
---

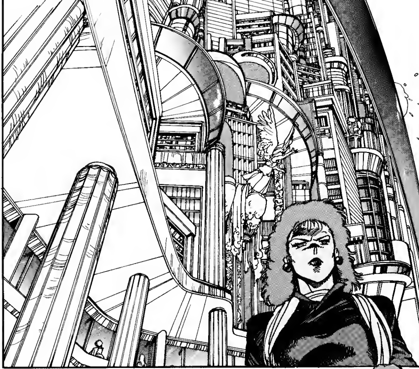
*executive organ here it applies to a police organization


YOU ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MOBILE WEAPONS COULD DO IN A CITY LIKE THIS!
ATHENA!
I *WOULD*-- IF YOU'D SET UP A PROPER MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE *COUNCIL!*
WELL, *I'M* MORE CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE NOT PUTTING GREATER EFFORT INTO ***RECONSTRUCTION.***
YOU SEEM AWFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE "GUINEA PIGS" HITOMI'S BRINGING IN.
*FX: BAM
I'VE HAD ***ENOUGH,*** ATHENA!
WITH YOU IN SUCH A STATE, I'M FRANKLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT *AEGIS.* YOU HAVE A ***MOUNTAIN*** OF WORK TO DO.
CONSULTING, DEPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT! INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATIONS! ESTABLISHING BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, CLEANING UP WAR DAMAGE--IT GOES ON AND ON...

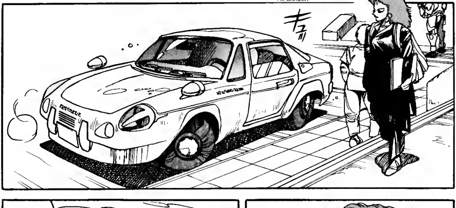

VERY FAST.
YES, A MUCH QUICKER REACTION THAN OUR PREDICTIONS.
IT'S NOT JUST IN OLYMPUS. THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE IS EXTREMELY UNSTABLE. THEY'RE SIMPLY NOT COPING.
THE DATA COMES FROM EMBASSY ATTACHES.
BEEP
HIGHLY RELIABLE, I'M SORRY TO SAY.
DID WE PUSH THE PLAN FORWARD TOO FAST...?
WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF FINAL WAR. WE HAD NO CHOICE. EVEN NOW...
EVEN NOW?

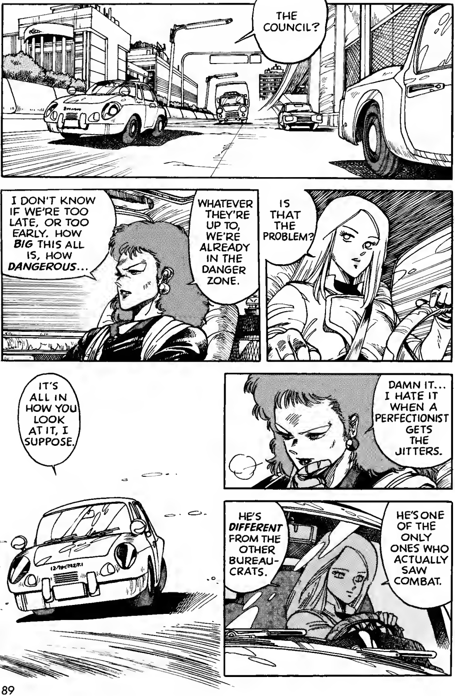

TWO MORE AGENTS AND WE'LL BE READY.
I'VE TOLD HITOMI TO HURRY, BUT SHE HAS TO BE CAREFUL. ATHENA...
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD IS MODELLED ON **OLYMPUS**.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, WE HAVE TO ELIMINATE THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE *HOMO SAPIENS*.
Ah, EXCUSE ME.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WE NEED A CITY-WIDE MOVEMENT.
I WANT DATA SOLID ENOUGH TO CONVINCE NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNCIL.
OUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO. EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE WAS TO THAT END.
OF COURSE! THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
THERE'S NO RECORD OF *HOMO SAPIENS* WORRYING ABOUT THE MONKEYS.
THAT WAS A NATURAL EVOLUTION. FRANKLY, WE'RE NOTHING BUT ***TOOLS***. TOOLS FOR THE HUMANS.

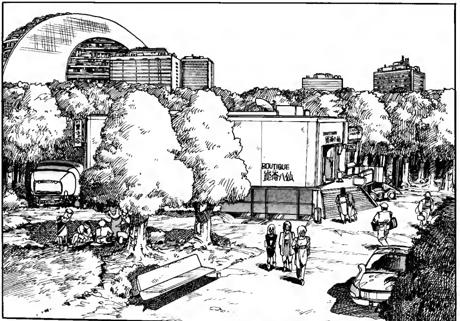

HOPEFULLY, NEW TENSION WILL GENERATE BETTER CONDITIONS.
BUT IN THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT, THE HUMAN RACE WILL LOSE ITS BIOLOGICAL VITALITY IN THREE GENERATIONS. IT'S *INEVITABLE*.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING HUMAN, OR EVEN THAT WE'RE THE BEST OPTION.
IF THE HUMAN INTELLECT IS A PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION, THEN ***WE*** SHOULD QUALIFY AS WELL.
AND THE OLD COLD WAR POWER GAMES ...?
WE CAN'T JUST ***ABANDON*** THE REFUGEES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE POOR... THAT'S SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.
IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT... A HARSHER ENVIRONMENT ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER. SOCIETY DETERIORATES, MORALS COLLAPSE...
WE SHOULD'VE ALREADY REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THAT... THERE'S NO MORE TIME.
THE CONFERENCE ROOM, GENTLEMEN.
WELL, LET'S DISCUSS HOW TO SCREEN THE NEXT ROUND OF DATA.
Ahem!

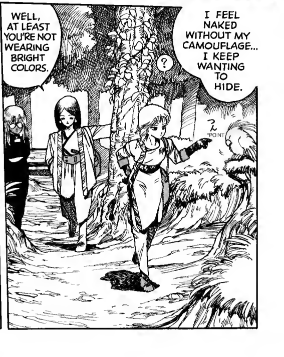


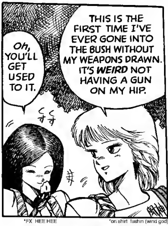
*FX: SKREEK


THERE YOU ARE!


THE COUNCIL?
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE TOO LATE, OR TOO EARLY. HOW ***BIG*** THIS ALL IS, HOW ***DANGEROUS***...
WHATEVER THEY'RE UP TO, WE'RE ALREADY IN THE DANGER ZONE.
IS THAT THE PROBLEM?
IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I SUPPOSE.
DAMN IT... I HATE IT WHEN A PERFECTIONIST GETS THE JITTERS.
HE'S ***DIFFERENT*** FROM THE OTHER BUREAUCRATS.
HE'S ONE OF THE ONLY ONES WHO ACTUALLY SAW COMBAT.

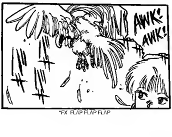

BOUTIQUE
崑崙八仙
COFFEE HOUSE


I FEEL NAKED WITHOUT MY CAMOUFLAGE... I KEEP WANTING TO HIDE.
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT WEARING BRIGHT COLORS.
?
つん
*POINT

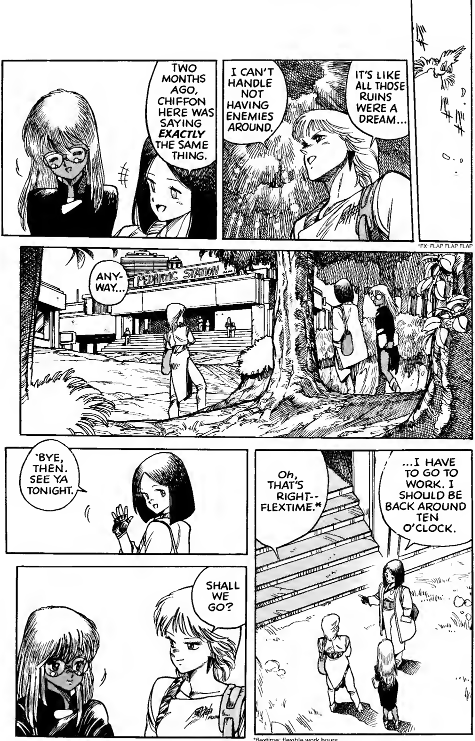

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GONE INTO THE BUSH WITHOUT MY WEAPONS DRAWN. IT'S *WEIRD* NOT HAVING A GUN ON MY HIP.
Oh, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
くすくす

*FX: HEE HEE

*on shirt: fushin (wind god)

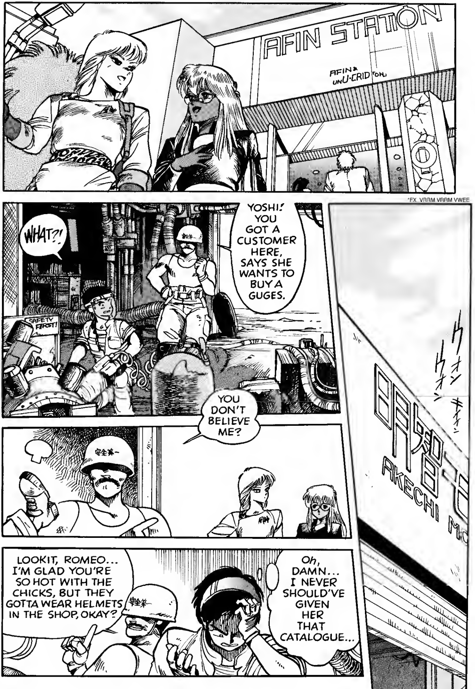


*FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP

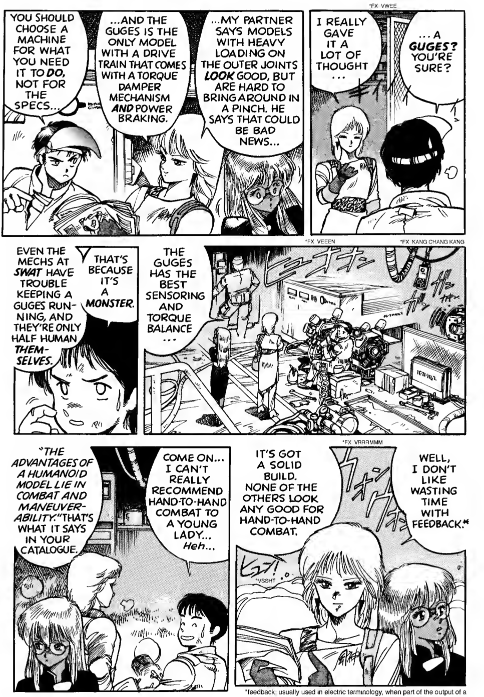

IT'S LIKE ALL THOSE RUINS WERE A DREAM...
I CAN'T HANDLE NOT HAVING ENEMIES AROUND.
TWO MONTHS AGO, CHIFFON HERE WAS SAYING ***EXACTLY*** THE SAME THING.
PEDANTIC STATION
ANY-WAY...
...I HAVE TO GO TO WORK. I SHOULD BE BACK AROUND TEN O'CLOCK.
Oh, THAT'S RIGHT-- FLEXTIME.*
'BYE, THEN. SEE YA TONIGHT.
SHALL WE GO?

*FX: FLAP FLAP FLAP

*flextime: flexible work hours

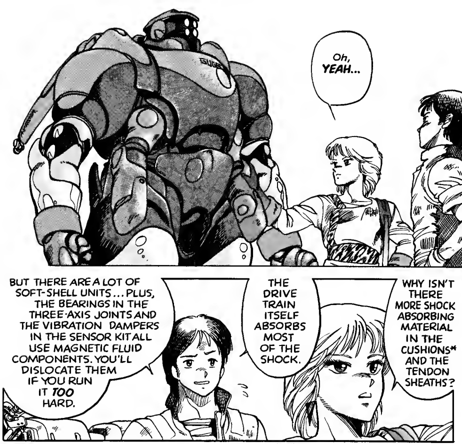

AFIN STATION
AFIN & unU-CRID ton
明智モ
AKECHI Mo
ウォン
ウォン
キィン
YOSHI! YOU GOT A CUSTOMER HERE, SAYS SHE WANTS TO BUY A GUGES.
WHAT?!
SAFETY FIRST!
安全第一
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
安全第一
Oh, DAMN... I NEVER SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER THAT CATALOGUE...
LOOKIT, ROMEO... I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO HOT WITH THE CHICKS, BUT THEY GOTTA WEAR HELMETS IN THE SHOP, OKAY?

*FX VRRM VRRM VWEE

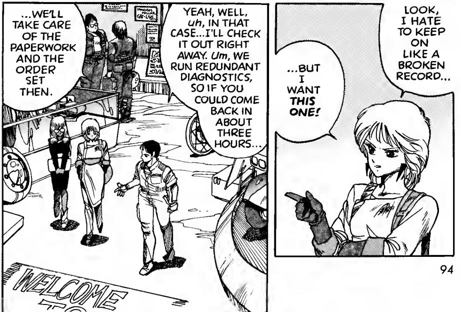

YOU SHOULD CHOOSE A MACHINE FOR WHAT YOU NEED IT TO *DO,* NOT FOR THE SPECS...
...AND THE GUGES IS THE ONLY MODEL WITH A DRIVE TRAIN THAT COMES WITH A TORQUE DAMPER MECHANISM *AND* POWER BRAKING.
...MY PARTNER SAYS MODELS WITH HEAVY LOADING ON THE OUTER JOINTS *LOOK* GOOD, BUT ARE HARD TO BRING AROUND IN A PINCH. HE SAYS THAT COULD BE BAD NEWS...
*FX VWEE
I REALLY GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT...
...A *GUGES?* YOU'RE SURE?
EVEN THE MECHS AT *SWAT* HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING A GUGES RUNNING, AND THEY'RE ONLY HALF HUMAN *THEMSELVES.*
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A *MONSTER.*
*FX VEEEN
*FX KANG CHANG KANG
THE GUGES HAS THE BEST SENSORING AND TORQUE BALANCE...
"THE ADVANTAGES OF A HUMANOID MODEL LIE IN COMBAT AND MANEUVERABILITY." THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN YOUR CATALOGUE.
COME ON... I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TO A YOUNG LADY... *Heh...*
*FX VRRRMMM
IT'S GOT A SOLID BUILD. NONE OF THE OTHERS LOOK ANY GOOD FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WITH FEEDBACK.*
*VSSHT

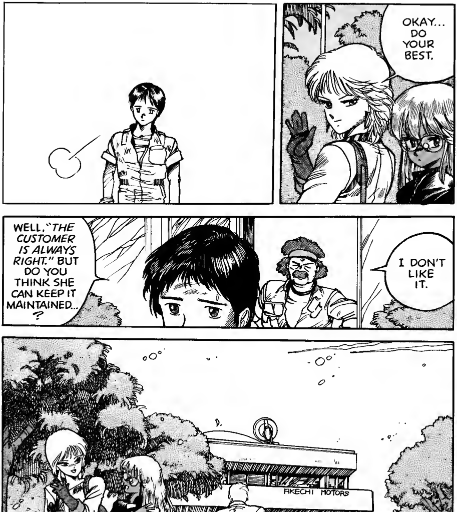
---

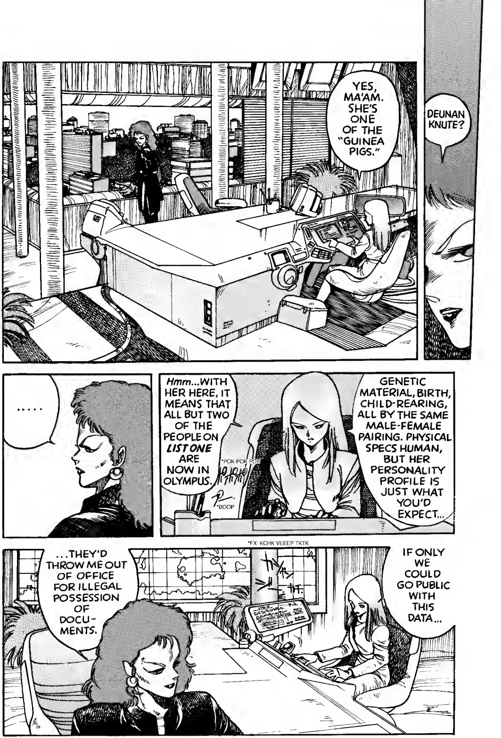
*feedback: usually used in electric terminology, when part of the output of a circuit is put back into the input, increasing the output (positive feedback), or reducing it (negative feedback).


Oh, *YEAH...*
SUGO
WHY ISN'T THERE MORE SHOCK ABSORBING MATERIAL IN THE CUSHIONS* AND THE TENDON SHEATHS?
THE DRIVE TRAIN ITSELF ABSORBS MOST OF THE SHOCK.
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF SOFT-SHELL UNITS... PLUS, THE BEARINGS IN THE THREE-AXIS JOINTS AND THE VIBRATION DAMPERS IN THE SENSOR KIT ALL USE MAGNETIC FLUID COMPONENTS. YOU'LL DISLOCATE THEM IF YOU RUN IT ***TOO*** HARD.

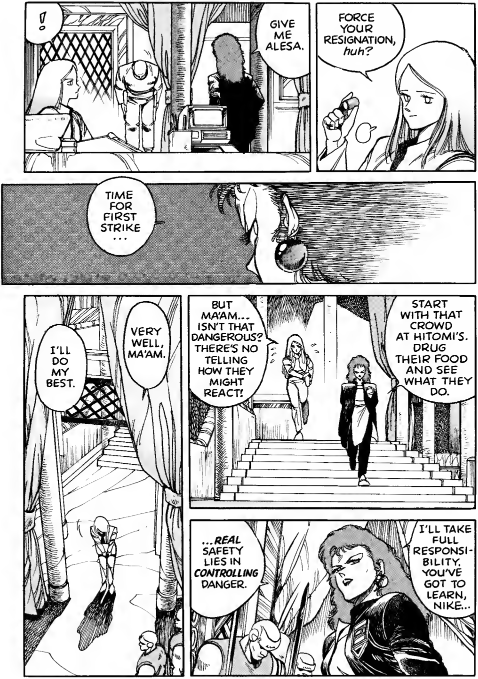
*cushion: here, a shock absorber mechanism in the exoskeleton.

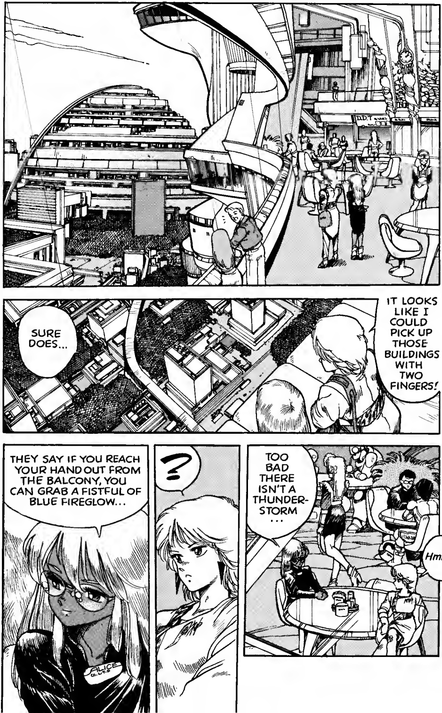

LOOK, I HATE TO KEEP ON LIKE A BROKEN RECORD...
...BUT I WANT ***THIS ONE!***
YEAH, WELL, *uh*, IN THAT CASE...I'LL CHECK IT OUT RIGHT AWAY. *Um*, WE RUN REDUNDANT DIAGNOSTICS, SO IF YOU COULD COME BACK IN ABOUT THREE HOURS...
...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK AND THE ORDER SET THEN.
WELCOME TO

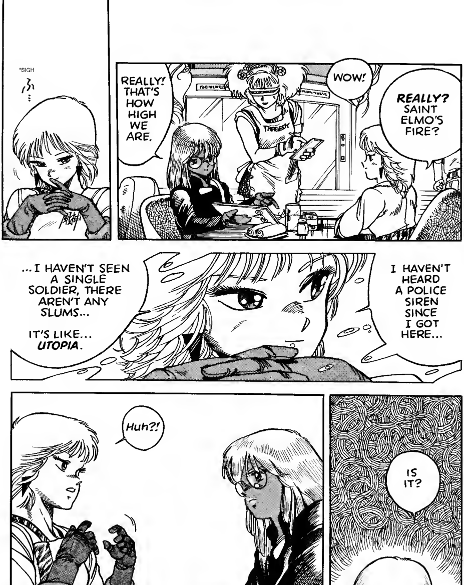

OKAY... DO YOUR BEST.
WELL, "*THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT.*" BUT DO YOU THINK SHE CAN KEEP IT MAINTAINED...?
I DON'T LIKE IT.
AKECHI MOTORS
ANYWAY... BACK TO WORK...

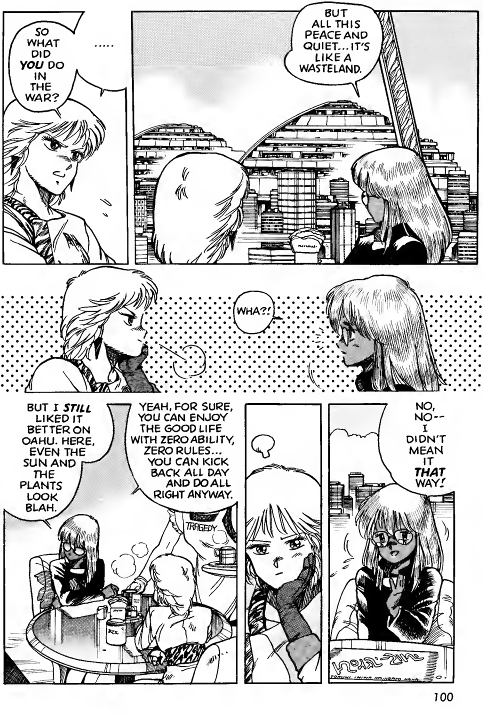

DEUNAN KNUTE?
YES, MA'AM. SHE'S ONE OF THE "GUINEA PIGS."
GENETIC MATERIAL, BIRTH, CHILD-REARING, ALL BY THE SAME MALE-FEMALE PAIRING. PHYSICAL SPECS HUMAN, BUT HER PERSONALITY PROFILE IS JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT...
*POK POK POK
*BOOP
*Hmm...*WITH HER HERE, IT MEANS THAT ALL BUT TWO OF THE PEOPLE ON ***LIST ONE*** ARE NOW IN OLYMPUS.
.....
IF ONLY WE COULD GO PUBLIC WITH THIS DATA...
...THEY'D THROW ME OUT OF OFFICE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS.

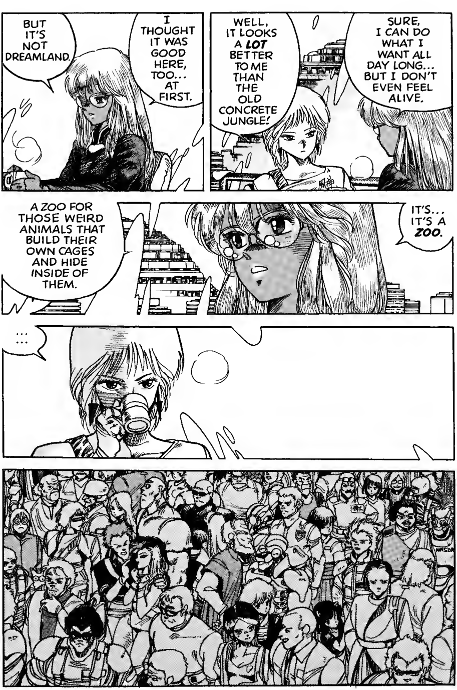
*FX KCHK VEEEP TKTK

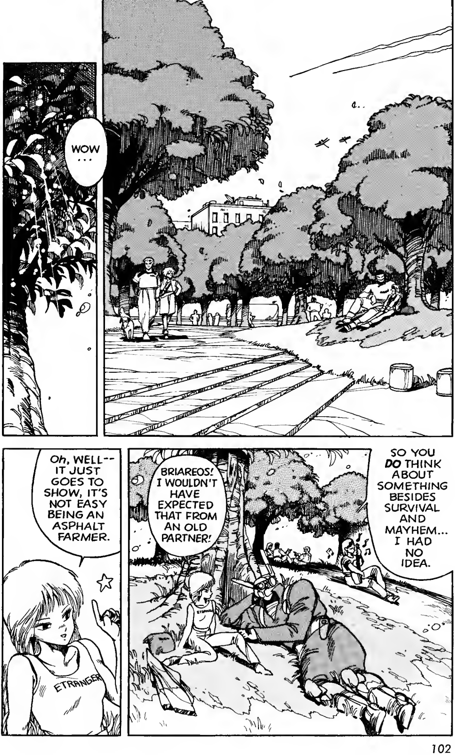

!
GIVE ME ALESA.
FORCE YOUR RESIGNATION, *huh?*
TIME FOR FIRST STRIKE . . .
START WITH THAT CROWD AT HITOMI'S. DRUG THEIR FOOD AND SEE WHAT THEY DO.
BUT MA'AM... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS? THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THEY MIGHT REACT!
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN, NIKE...
...***REAL*** SAFETY LIES IN ***CONTROLLING*** DANGER.
VERY WELL, MA'AM.
I'LL DO MY BEST.

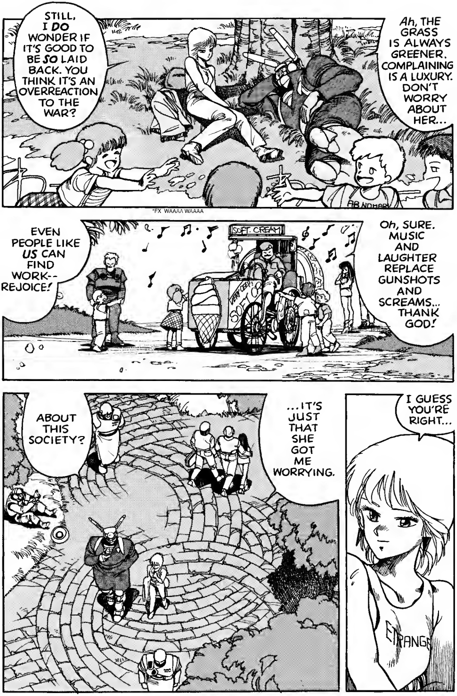

D.D.T
IT LOOKS LIKE I COULD PICK UP THOSE BUILDINGS WITH TWO FINGERS!
SURE DOES...
THEY SAY IF YOU REACH YOUR HAND OUT FROM THE BALCONY, YOU CAN GRAB A FISTFUL OF BLUE FIREGLOW...
ALICE
?
TOO BAD THERE ISN'T A THUNDERSTORM ...
Hmm?


REALLY? SAINT ELMO'S FIRE?
WOW!
REALLY! THAT'S HOW HIGH WE ARE.
*SIGH
ふ
I HAVEN'T HEARD A POLICE SIREN SINCE I GOT HERE...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE SOLDIER, THERE AREN'T ANY SLUMS...
IT'S LIKE... UTOPIA.
IS IT?
Huh?!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE AT WAR EVEN BEFORE THE BIG ONE, DEUNAN...
...SO MAYBE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

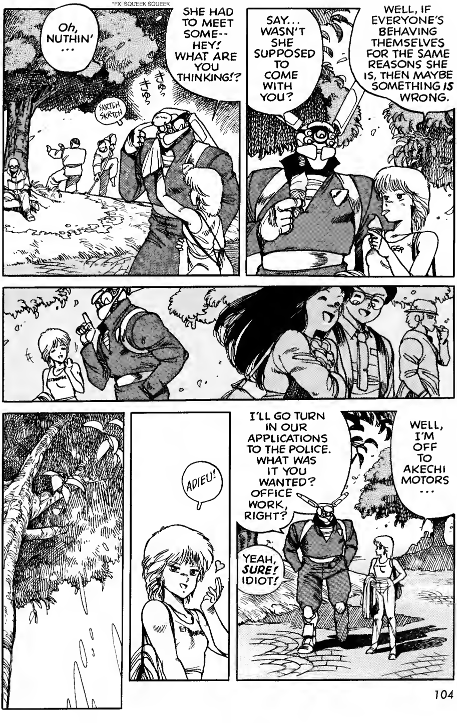

SO WHAT DID *YOU* DO IN THE WAR?
.....
BUT ALL THIS PEACE AND QUIET... IT'S LIKE A WASTELAND.
WHA?!
BUT I *STILL* LIKED IT BETTER ON OAHU. HERE, EVEN THE SUN AND THE PLANTS LOOK BLAH.
YEAH, FOR SURE, YOU CAN ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE WITH ZERO ABILITY, ZERO RULES... YOU CAN KICK BACK ALL DAY AND DO ALL RIGHT ANYWAY.
TRAGEDY
NO, NO-- I DIDN'T MEAN IT *THAT* WAY!
TORUNI IMIWA NAINDAYO HAHA

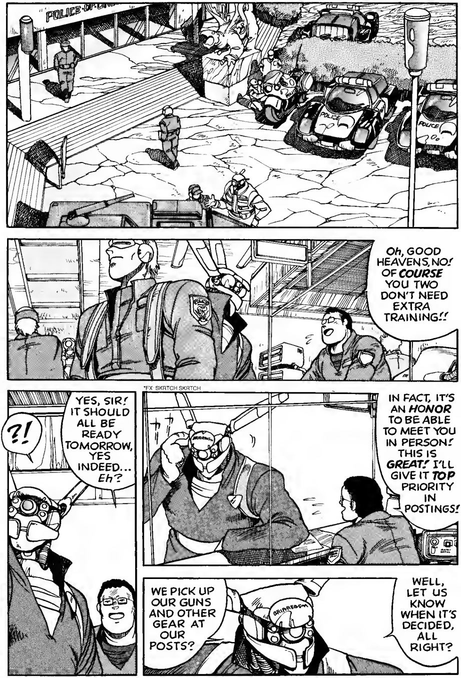

SURE, I CAN DO WHAT I WANT ALL DAY LONG... BUT I DON'T EVEN FEEL ALIVE.
WELL, IT LOOKS A **LOT** BETTER TO ME THAN THE OLD CONCRETE JUNGLE!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD HERE, TOO... AT FIRST.
BUT IT'S NOT DREAMLAND.
IT'S... IT'S A ***ZOO***.
A ZOO FOR THOSE WEIRD ANIMALS THAT BUILD THEIR OWN CAGES AND HIDE INSIDE OF THEM.
... ...

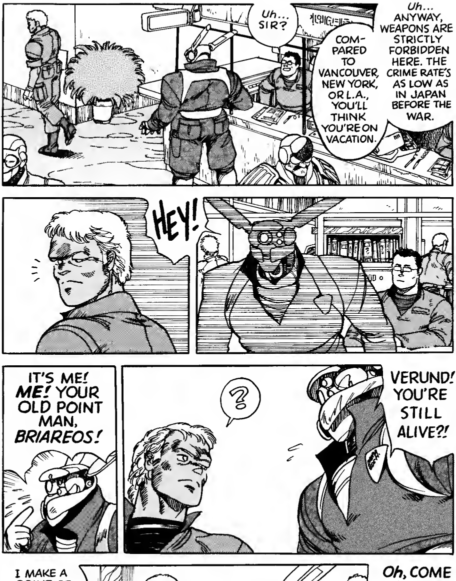

WOW . . .
SO YOU DO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING BESIDES SURVIVAL AND MAYHEM... I HAD NO IDEA.
BRIAREOS! I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM AN OLD PARTNER!
ETRANGER
Oh, WELL-- IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, IT'S NOT EASY BEING AN ASPHALT FARMER.
ETRANGER

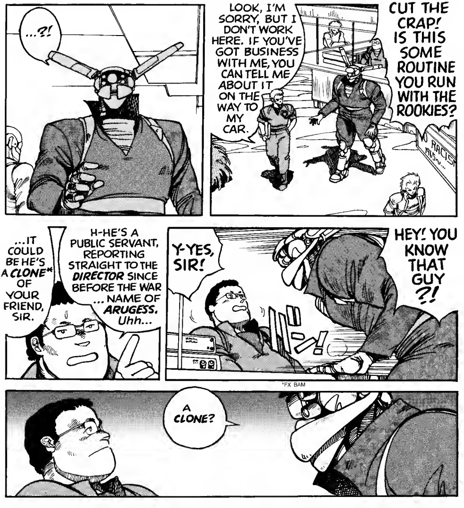

STILL, I *DO* WONDER IF IT'S GOOD TO BE *SO* LAID BACK. YOU THINK IT'S AN OVERREACTION TO THE WAR?
Ah, THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER. COMPLAINING IS A LUXURY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER...
*FX WAAAA WAAAA
EVEN PEOPLE LIKE *US* CAN FIND WORK-- REJOICE!
SOFT CREAM
Oh, SURE. MUSIC AND LAUGHTER REPLACE GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMS... THANK GOD!
ABOUT THIS SOCIETY?
...IT'S JUST THAT SHE GOT ME WORRYING.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
ETRANGE

*FX SQUEEK SQUEEK


WELL, IF EVERYONE'S BEHAVING THEMSELVES FOR THE SAME REASONS SHE IS, THEN MAYBE SOMETHING *IS* WRONG.
SAY... WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO COME WITH YOU?
SHE HAD TO MEET SOME-- HEY! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
Oh, NUTHIN' ...
きゅっ きゅっ
SKRTCH SKRTCH
WELL, I'M OFF TO AKECHI MOTORS ...
I'LL GO TURN IN OUR APPLICATIONS TO THE POLICE. WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED? OFFICE WORK, RIGHT?
YEAH, **SURE!** IDIOT!
ADIEU!

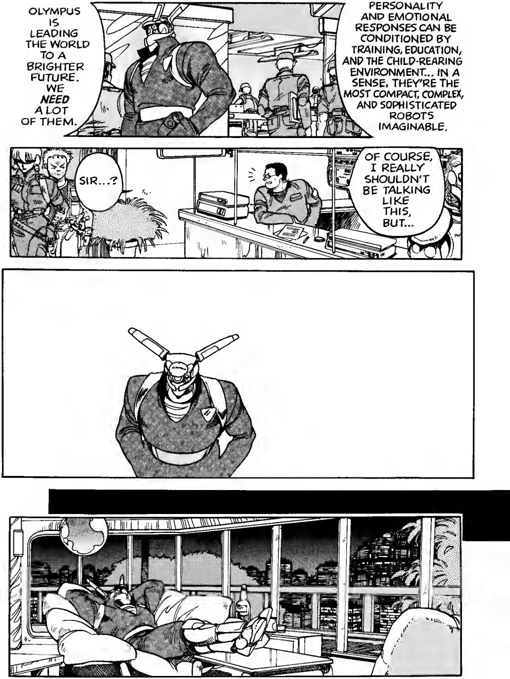

POLICE OF ...
POLICE
POLICE
Oh, GOOD HEAVENS, NO! OF *COURSE* YOU TWO DON'T NEED EXTRA TRAINING!!
*FX: SKRTCH SKRTCH
IN FACT, IT'S AN *HONOR* TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON! THIS IS *GREAT!* I'LL GIVE IT *TOP* PRIORITY IN POSTINGS!
WELL, LET US KNOW WHEN IT'S DECIDED, ALL RIGHT?
WE PICK UP OUR GUNS AND OTHER GEAR AT OUR POSTS?
YES, SIR! IT SHOULD ALL BE READY TOMORROW, YES INDEED... *Eh?*
?!

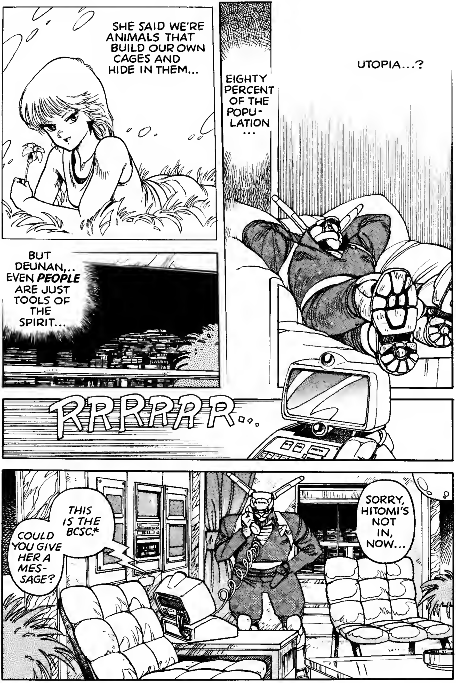

Uh... SIR?
COMPARED TO VANCOUVER, NEW YORK, OR L.A., YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE ON VACATION.
Uh... ANYWAY, WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN HERE. THE CRIME RATE'S AS LOW AS IN JAPAN BEFORE THE WAR.
HEY!
IT'S ME! ME! YOUR OLD POINT MAN, BRIAREOS!
?
VERUND! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
I MAKE A POINT OF REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES, BUT... SORRY-- HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
Oh, COME OFF IT! YOU'RE NOT SO SENILE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ME!


CUT THE CRAP! IS THIS SOME ROUTINE YOU RUN WITH THE ROOKIES?
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T WORK HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH ME, YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO MY CAR.
...?!
HEY! YOU KNOW THAT GUY ?!
Y-YES, SIR!
H-HE'S A PUBLIC SERVANT, REPORTING STRAIGHT TO THE *DIRECTOR* SINCE BEFORE THE WAR ... NAME OF *ARUGESS.* Uhh...
...IT COULD BE HE'S A *CLONE** OF YOUR FRIEND, SIR.
*FX BAM
A *CLONE?*
YES, SIR. A HUMAN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED FROM A GENETIC PATTERN TAKEN FROM A SPECIFIC DONOR. WE CALL CLONES WITH GENETIC MATERIAL FROM MULTIPLE MOTHER-SOURCES *HYBRIDS.** WHEN THEY GO THROUGH SPECIAL PROCESSING, WE CALL THEM *BIOROIDS.*
IF YOU COUNT THE UNITS WITH MACROMOLECULAR PROCESSED COMPONENTS, A GOOD EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE CLONES.

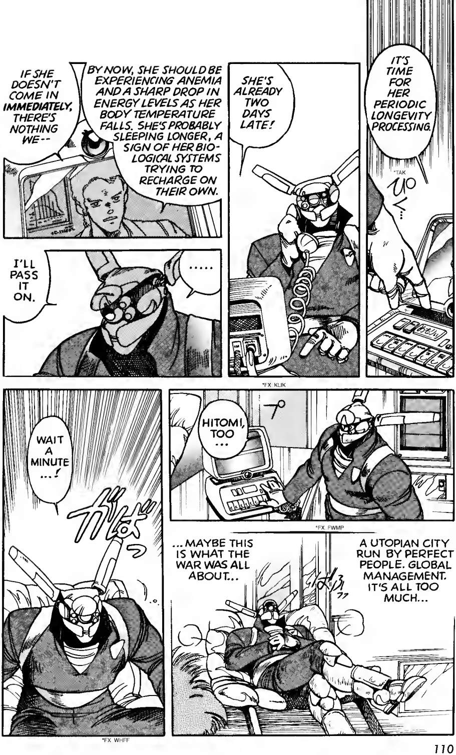
*clone By dividing fertilized eggs, it's possible to create a genetic duplicate. It's already used in animal husbandry. The presence of multiple mothers is called genetic inervention.

*hybrid a mixed type, a crossbreed.


PERSONALITY AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSES CAN BE CONDITIONED BY TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND THE CHILD-REARING ENVIRONMENT... IN A SENSE, THEY'RE THE MOST COMPACT, COMPLEX, AND SOPHISTICATED ROBOTS IMAGINABLE.
OLYMPUS IS LEADING THE WORLD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. WE *NEED* A LOT OF THEM.
OF COURSE, I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TALKING LIKE THIS, BUT...
SIR...?


SHE SAID WE'RE ANIMALS THAT BUILD OUR OWN CAGES AND HIDE IN THEM...
BUT DEUNAN,.. EVEN ***PEOPLE*** ARE JUST TOOLS OF THE SPIRIT...
EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ...
UTOPIA...?
RRRRRR...
SORRY, HITOMI'S NOT IN, NOW...
THIS IS THE BCSC.*
COULD YOU GIVE HER A MESSAGE?

*BCSC = **B**IO**C**ONTROL **S**ERVICE **C**ENTER

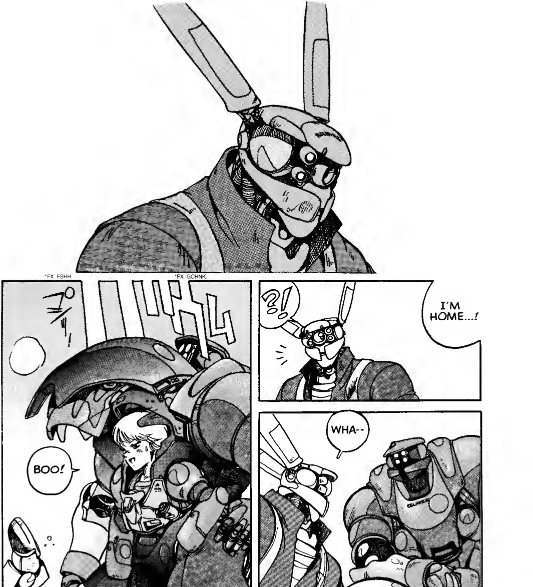

IT'S TIME FOR HER PERIODIC LONGEVITY PROCESSING.
SHE'S ALREADY TWO DAYS LATE!
BY NOW, SHE SHOULD BE EXPERIENCING ANEMIA AND A SHARP DROP IN ENERGY LEVELS AS HER BODY TEMPERATURE FALLS. SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPING LONGER, A SIGN OF HER BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS TRYING TO RECHARGE ON THEIR OWN.
IF SHE DOESN'T COME IN **IMMEDIATELY**, THERE'S NOTHING WE--
.....
I'LL PASS IT ON.
HITOMI, TOO ...
WAIT A MINUTE ...!
がばっ
A UTOPIAN CITY RUN BY PERFECT PEOPLE. GLOBAL MANAGEMENT. IT'S ALL TOO MUCH...
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE WAR WAS ALL ABOUT...

*TAK

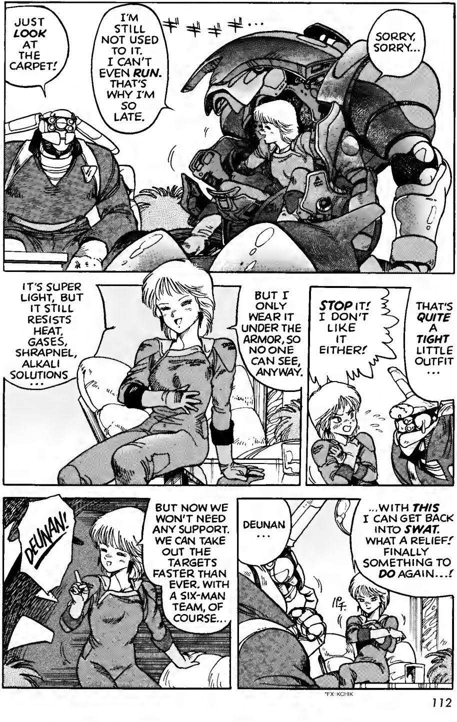
*FX KLIK

*FX FWMP

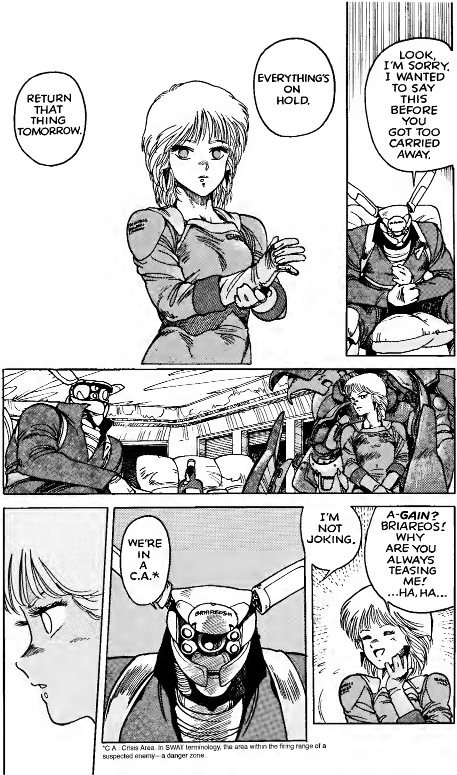
*FX WHFF


*FX FSHH
*FX GCHNK
I'M HOME...!
?!
フッ
ガシャン
BOO!
WHA--
WHAT DO YOU THINK?! DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND, DID I? DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE, DID YOU? DID YOU? HA, HAHAHA!
GHAA... THREW OUT MY BACK...
あだだ...
*FX OW OWW

*FX SKREEEK

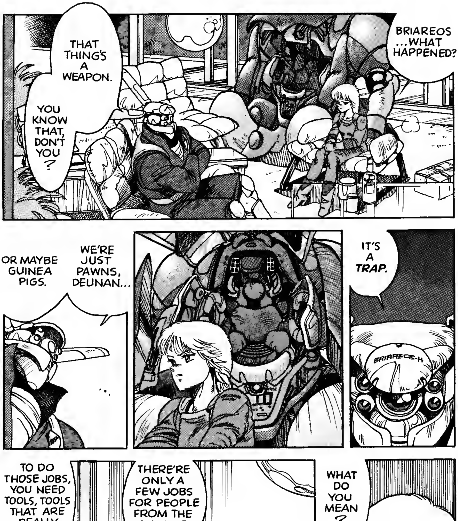

JUST LOOK AT THE CARPET!
I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT. I CAN'T EVEN RUN. THAT'S WHY I'M SO LATE.
ギギギギ…
SORRY, SORRY…
IT'S SUPER LIGHT, BUT IT STILL RESISTS HEAT, GASES, SHRAPNEL, ALKALI SOLUTIONS …
BUT I ONLY WEAR IT UNDER THE ARMOR, SO NO ONE CAN SEE, ANYWAY.
THAT'S QUITE A TIGHT LITTLE OUTFIT …
STOP IT! I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER!
DEUNAN!
BUT NOW WE WON'T NEED ANY SUPPORT. WE CAN TAKE OUT THE TARGETS FASTER THAN EVER. WITH A SIX-MAN TEAM, OF COURSE…
DEUNAN …
…WITH THIS I CAN GET BACK INTO SWAT. WHAT A RELIEF! FINALLY SOMETHING TO DO AGAIN…!
パチ

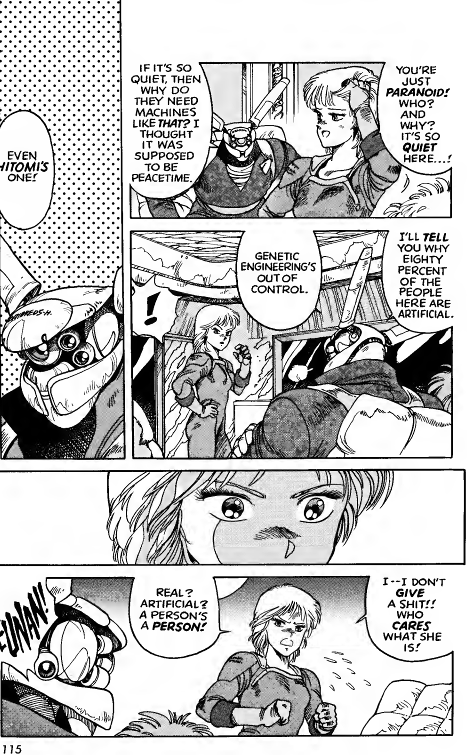
*FX KCHIK

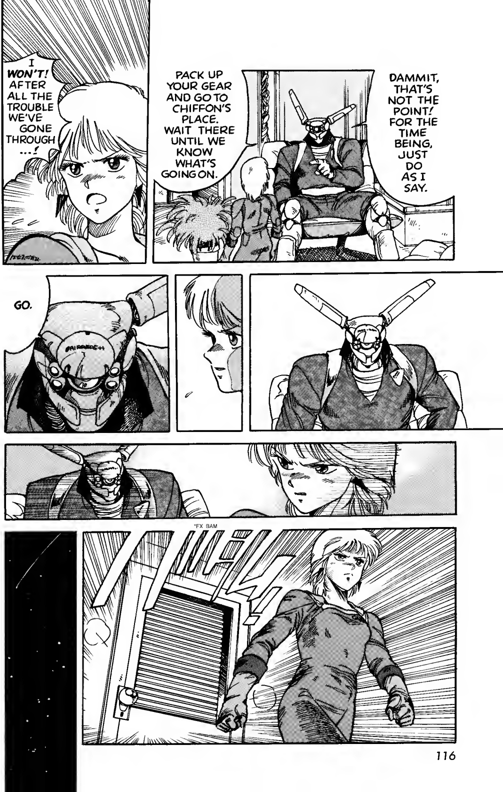

LOOK, I'M SORRY. I WANTED TO SAY THIS BEFORE YOU GOT TOO CARRIED AWAY.
EVERYTHING'S ON HOLD.
RETURN THAT THING TOMORROW.
A-*GAIN?* BRIAREOS! WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS TEASING ME! ...HA, HA...
I'M NOT JOKING.
WE'RE IN A C.A.*
BRIAREOS-H

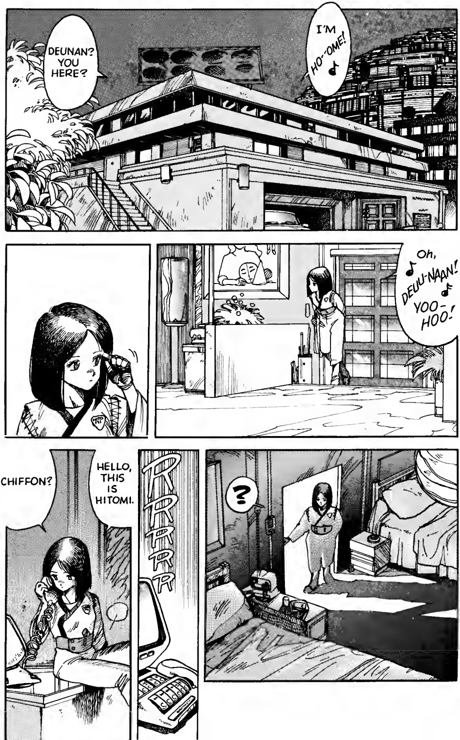
---

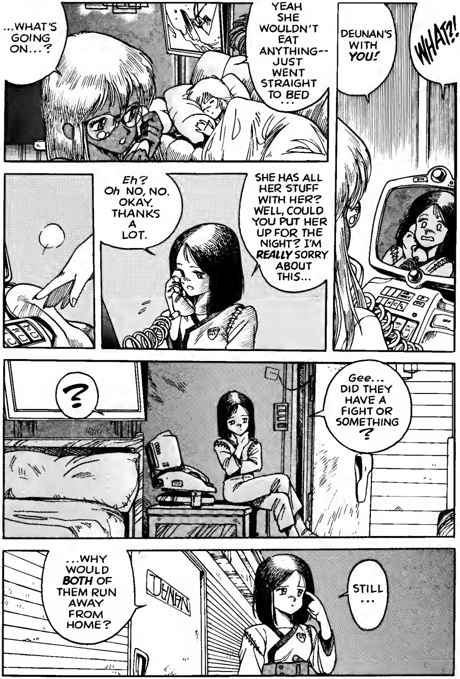
*C.A.: Crisis Area. In SWAT terminology, the area within the firing range of a suspected enemy—a danger zone.

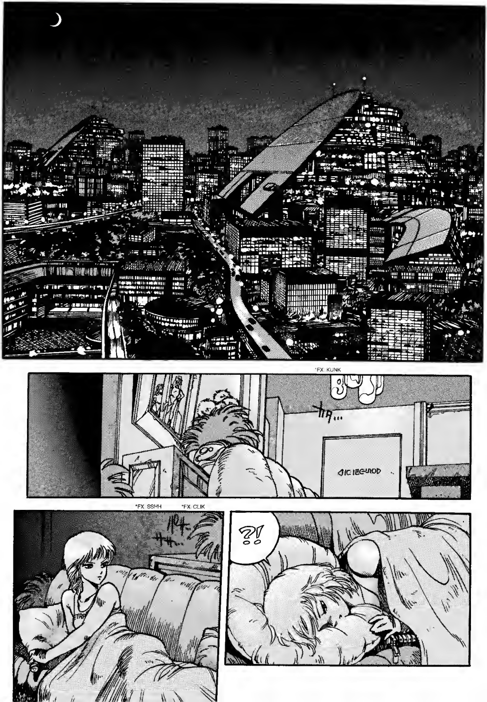

BRIAREOS ...WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT THING'S A WEAPON.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
IT'S A *TRAP.*
BRIAREOS-H
WE'RE JUST PAWNS, DEUNAN...
OR MAYBE GUINEA PIGS.
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'RE ONLY A FEW JOBS FOR PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
TO DO THOSE JOBS, YOU NEED TOOLS, TOOLS THAT ARE REALLY WEAPONS IN DISGUISE...

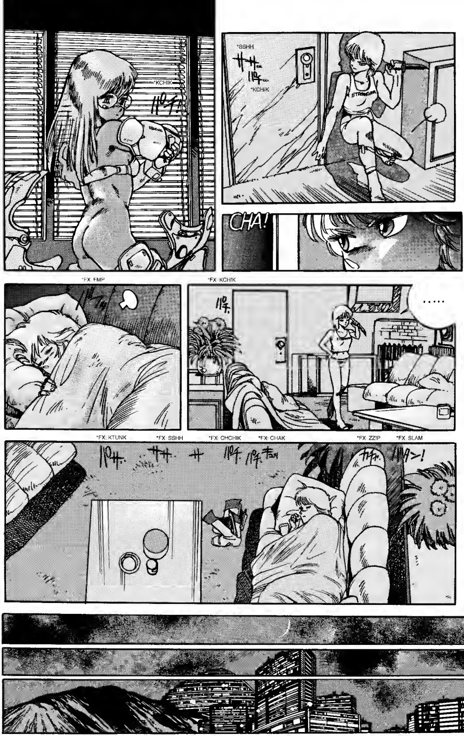

YOU'RE JUST ***PARANOID!*** WHO? AND WHY? IT'S SO ***QUIET*** HERE...!
IF IT'S SO QUIET, THEN WHY DO THEY NEED MACHINES LIKE ***THAT?*** I THOUGHT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PEACETIME.
EVEN ***HITOMI'S*** ONE!
I'LL ***TELL*** YOU WHY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE ARTIFICIAL.
GENETIC ENGINEERING'S OUT OF CONTROL.
BRIAREOS-H.
!
I--I DON'T ***GIVE*** A SHIT!! WHO ***CARES*** WHAT SHE IS!
REAL? ARTIFICIAL? A PERSON'S A ***PERSON!***
DEUNAN!


I WON'T! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE GONE THROUGH ...!
PACK UP YOUR GEAR AND GO TO CHIFFON'S PLACE. WAIT THERE UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
DAMMIT, THAT'S NOT THE POINT! FOR THE TIME BEING, JUST DO AS I SAY.
GO.
*FX BAM


I'M HO-OME! ♪
DEUNAN? YOU HERE?
♪ Oh, DEUU-NAAN! ♪ YOO-HOO!
?
RRRRRR
HELLO, THIS IS HITOMI.
CHIFFON?


...WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YEAH SHE WOULDN'T EAT ANYTHING-- JUST WENT STRAIGHT TO BED...
DEUNAN'S WITH *YOU!*
WHAT?!
Eh? *Oh* NO, NO. OKAY. THANKS A LOT.
SHE HAS ALL HER STUFF WITH HER? WELL, COULD YOU PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'M ***REALLY*** SORRY ABOUT THIS...
?
Gee... DID THEY HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING ?
...WHY WOULD ***BOTH*** OF THEM RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
DUNAN
STILL ...


*FX: KUNK
*FX: SSHH
*FX: CLIK
?!


*KCHIK
*SSHH
*KCHIK
CHA!
*FX FMP
*FX KCHIK
.....
*FX KTUNK
*FX SSHH
*FX CHCHIK
*FX CHAK
*FX ZZIP
*FX SLAM

*FX VREEEEEEEE

*FX VRMM VRMM

*FX VREEEE

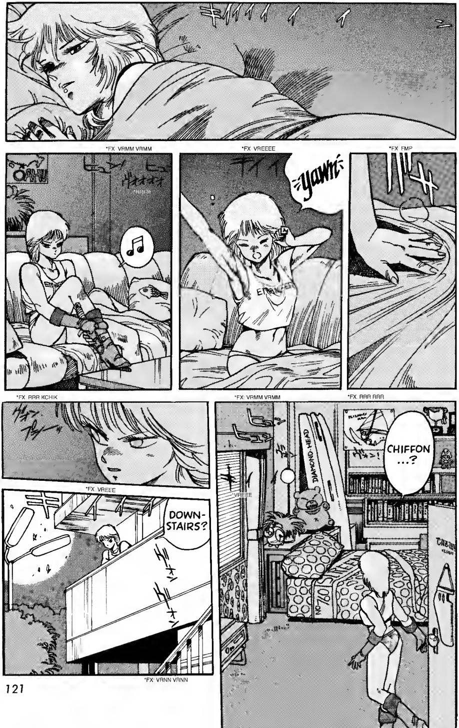
*FX FMP

*FX RRR KCHIK

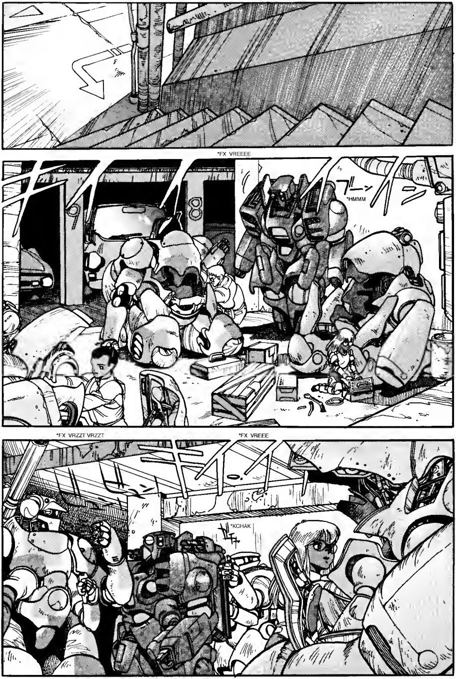
*FX VRMM VRMM

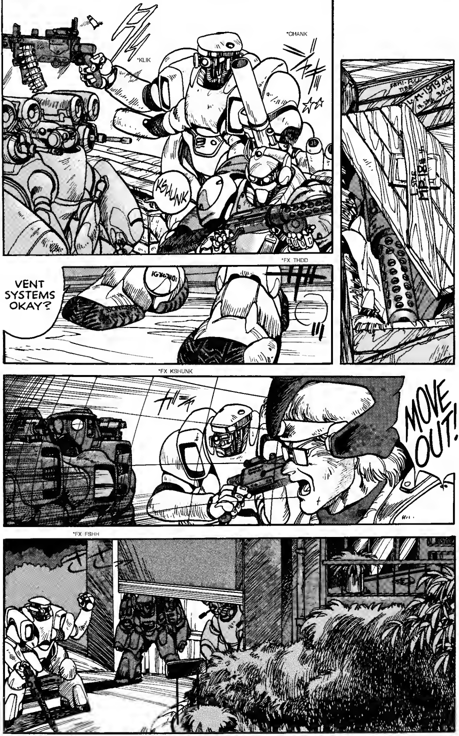
*FX RRR RRR

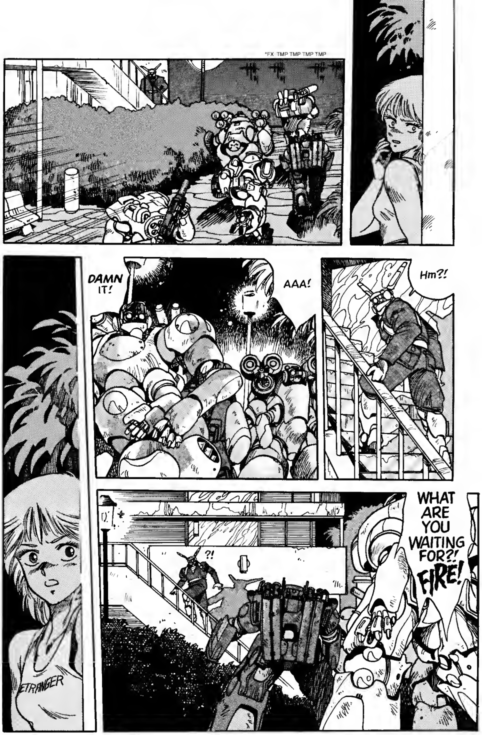
*FX VREEE

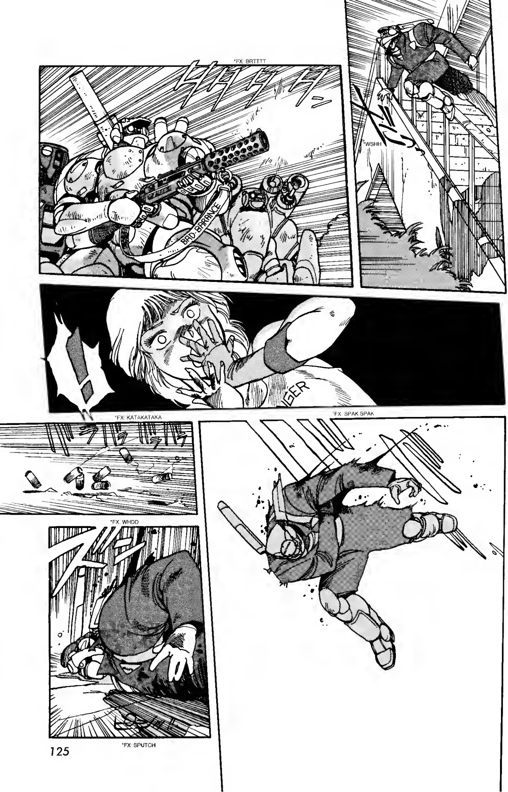

OAHU
*RRRR
♫
YAWN
DIAMOND-HEAD
No 70
*VREEE
CHIFFON ...?
DOWN-STAIRS?

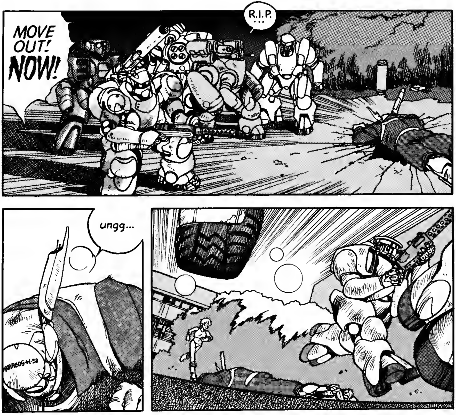
*FX VRNN VRNN


*FX VREEEE
*HMMM
*FX VREEE
*FX VRZZT VRZZT
*KCHAK

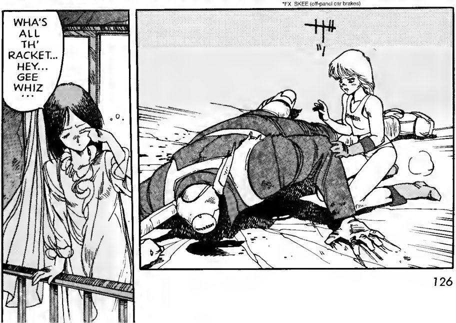

*KLIK
*CHANK
KSHUNK
M-1919 AH
*FX THDD
VENT SYSTEMS OKAY?
*FX KSHUNK
MOVE OUT!
*FX FSHH

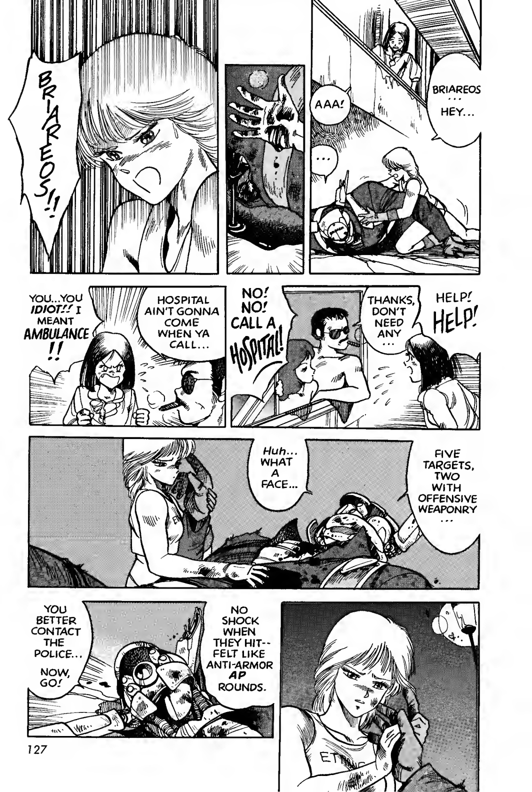

*FX TMP TMP TMP TMP
DAMN IT!
AAA!
Hm?!
?!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! FIRE!
ETRANGER

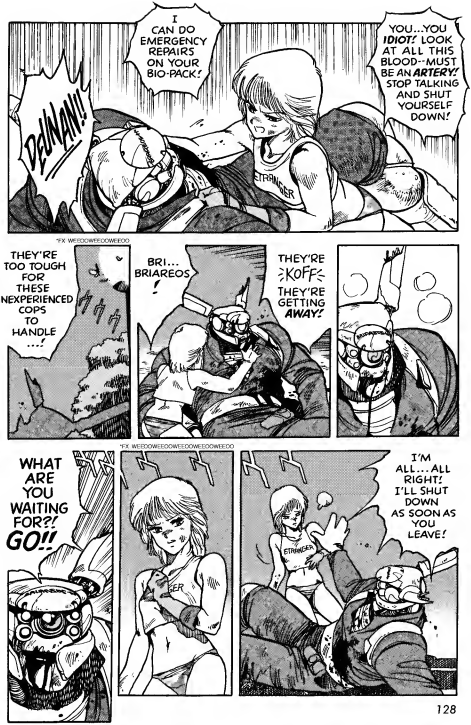

*WSHH
*FX BRTTT
BRD. BARANCE
GER
*FX SPAK SPAK
*FX KATAKATAKA
*FX WHDD
*FX SPUTCH

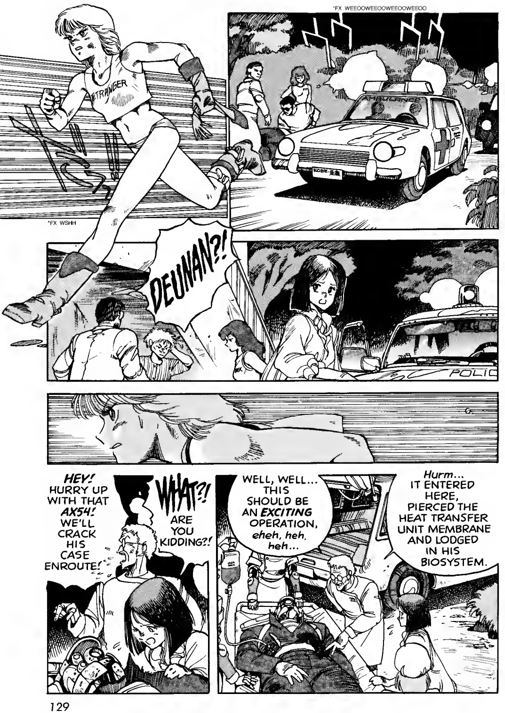

R.I.P. ...
MOVE OUT! NOW!
ungg...

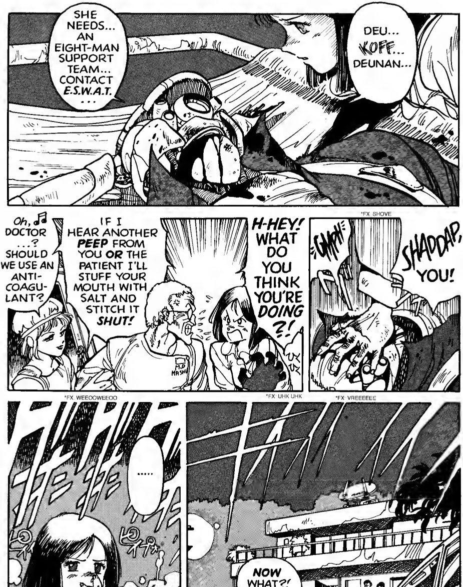
*FX SKEE (off-panel car brakes)


WHA'S ALL TH' RACKET... HEY... GEE WHIZ ...


BRIAREOS ... HEY...
AAA!
...
BRIAREOS!!
HELP! HELP!
THANKS, DON'T NEED ANY ...
NO! NO! CALL A HOSPITAL!
HOSPITAL AIN'T GONNA COME WHEN YA CALL...
YOU...YOU IDIOT!! I MEANT AMBULANCE!!
FIVE TARGETS, TWO WITH OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY ...
Huh... WHAT A FACE...
NO SHOCK WHEN THEY HIT-- FELT LIKE ANTI-ARMOR AP ROUNDS.
YOU BETTER CONTACT THE POLICE... NOW, GO!


DEUNAN!!
I CAN DO EMERGENCY REPAIRS ON YOUR BIO-PACK!
YOU...YOU ***IDIOT!*** LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD--MUST BE AN ***ARTERY!*** STOP TALKING AND SHUT YOURSELF DOWN!
ETRANGER
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
THEY'RE TOO TOUGH FOR THESE INEXPERIENCED COPS TO HANDLE...!
BRI... BRIAREOS!
THEY'RE *KOFF* THEY'RE GETTING ***AWAY!***
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! ***GO!!***
I'M ALL...ALL RIGHT! I'LL SHUT DOWN AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE!
ETRANGER


*FX WSHH
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
STRANGER
AMBULANCE
KOBE
DEUNAN?!
POLIC
HEY! HURRY UP WITH THAT AX54! WE'LL CRACK HIS CASE ENROUTE!
WHAT?! ARE YOU KIDDING?!
WELL, WELL... THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCITING OPERATION, eheh, heh, heh...
Hurm... IT ENTERED HERE, PIERCED THE HEAT TRANSFER UNIT MEMBRANE AND LODGED IN HIS BIOSYSTEM.


SHE NEEDS... AN EIGHT-MAN SUPPORT TEAM... CONTACT *E.S.W.A.T.* ...
DEU... KOFF... DEUNAN...
Oh, ♫ DOCTOR ...? SHOULD WE USE AN ANTI-COAGULANT?
IF I HEAR ANOTHER **PEEP** FROM YOU **OR** THE PATIENT I'LL STUFF YOUR MOUTH WITH SALT AND STITCH IT ***SHUT!***
M.D. MASHU
H-HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
GMPH
SHADDAP, YOU!
.....
NOW WHAT?! WHAZZAT?
M.D. MASHU & INVINCIBLE SIX-NURSE

*FX: SHOVE

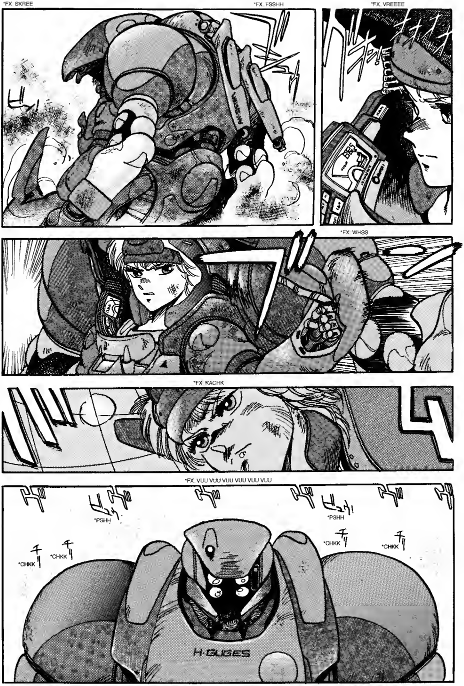
*FX: WEEOOWEEOO

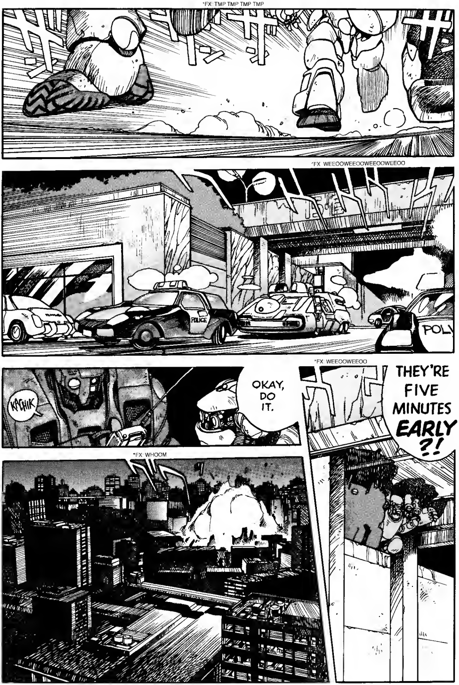
*FX: UHK UHK

*FX: VREEEEEE

*FX: BRMM BRMM

*FX: VRMVRMVRM


*FX VREEEE
*FX FSSHH
*FX SKREE
*FX WHSS
*FX KACHK
*FX VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU
*PSHH
*CHKK
*CHKK
*PSHH
*CHKK
*CHKK
H·GUGES



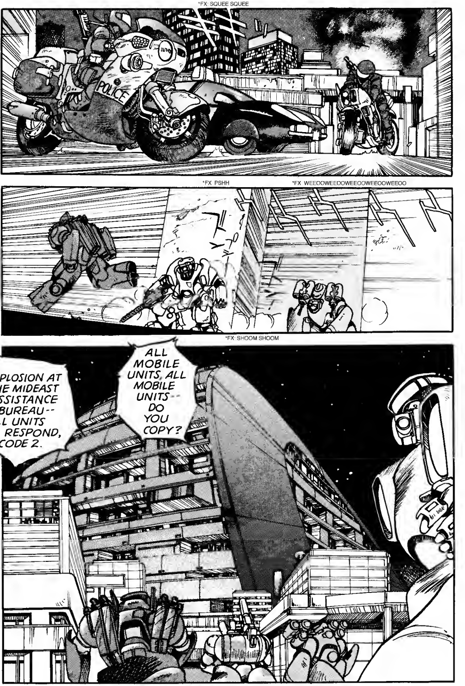
*FX TMP TMP TMP TMP

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX WEEOOWEEOO

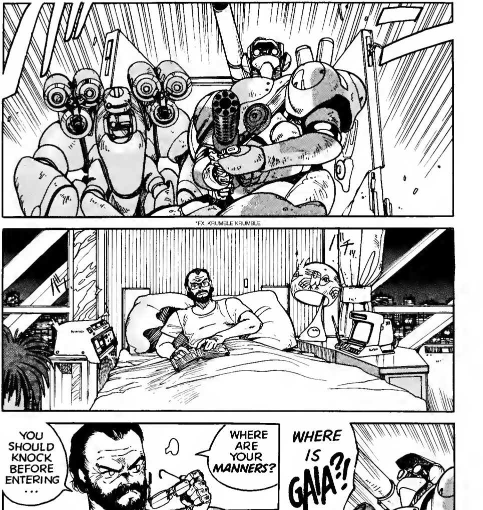
*FX WHOOM

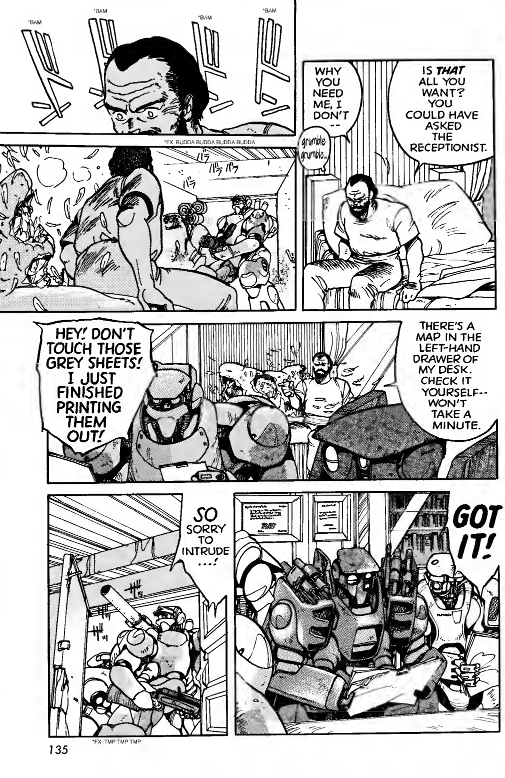
POLICE
POL
KACHIK
OKAY, DO IT.
THEY'RE FIVE MINUTES EARLY?!


*FX SQUEE SQUEE
POLICE
*FX PSHH
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
*FX SHOOM SHOOM
ALL MOBILE UNITS, ALL MOBILE UNITS-- DO YOU COPY?
EXPLOSION AT THE MIDEAST ASSISTANCE BUREAU-- ALL UNITS RESPOND, CODE 2.

*FX BAMM

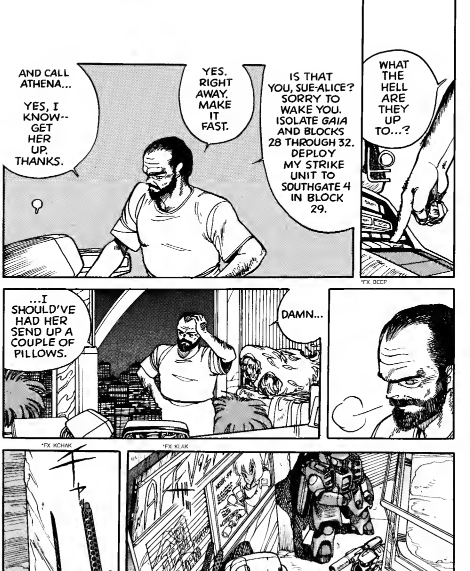
*FX KRUMBLE KRUMBLE

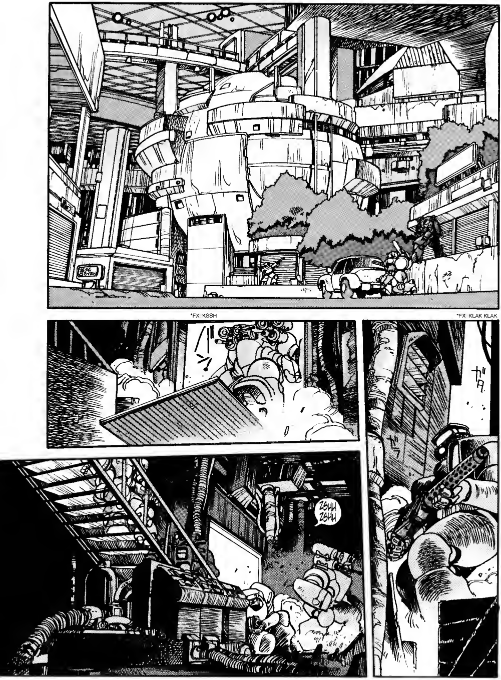

YOU SHOULD KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING . . .
WHERE ARE YOUR *MANNERS?*
WHERE IS GAIA?!
WHERE IS IT?! ANSWER ME!!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THAT *SUPERCOMPUTER*, THE ONE THE COUNCIL THEORISTS USE!


*BAM
*BAM
*BAM
*BAM
WHY YOU NEED ME, I DON'T --
IS *THAT* ALL YOU WANT? YOU COULD HAVE ASKED THE RECEPTIONIST.
grumble grumble...
HEY! DON'T TOUCH THOSE GREY SHEETS! I JUST FINISHED PRINTING THEM OUT!
THERE'S A MAP IN THE LEFT-HAND DRAWER OF MY DESK. CHECK IT YOURSELF-- WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.
SO SORRY TO INTRUDE ...!
GOT IT!

*FX: BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

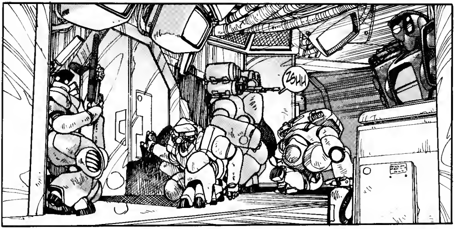
*FX: TMP TMP TMP


WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY UP TO...?
*FX BEEP
IS THAT YOU, SUE-ALICE? SORRY TO WAKE YOU. ISOLATE *GAIA* AND BLOCKS 28 THROUGH 32. DEPLOY MY STRIKE UNIT TO SOUTHGATE 4 IN BLOCK 29.
YES. RIGHT AWAY. MAKE IT FAST.
AND CALL ATHENA... YES, I KNOW-- GET HER UP. THANKS.
DAMN...
...I SHOULD'VE HAD HER SEND UP A COUPLE OF PILLOWS.
*FX KLAK
MAGNETIC AUTO CENTE
*FX KCHAK


ガタ
ZSHH ZSHH

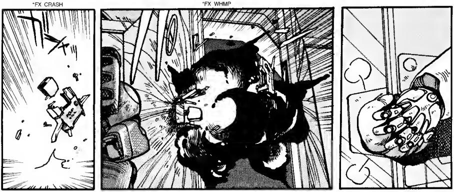
*FX: KSSH

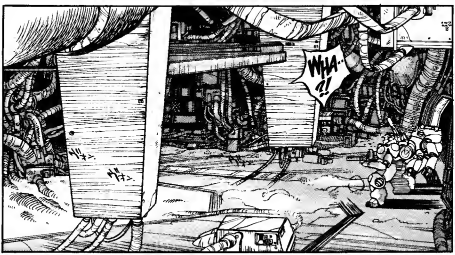
*FX: KLAK KLAK



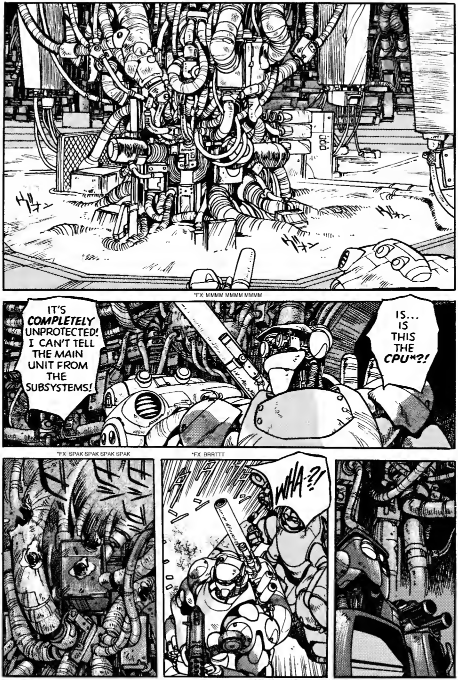
*FX CRASH

*FX WHMP





*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM


ヴォン
ヴォン
ヴォン
IT'S *COMPLETELY* UNPROTECTED! I CAN'T TELL THE MAIN UNIT FROM THE SUBSYSTEMS!
IS... IS THIS THE *CPU**?!*
WHA-?!

*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM

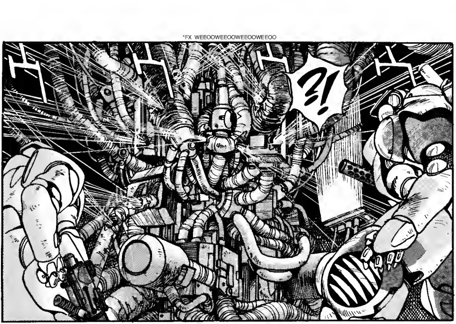
*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK

*FX BRRTTT

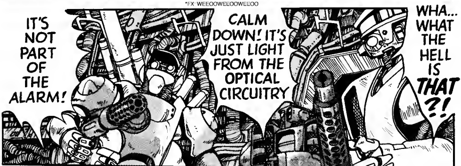
---

*CPU: Central Processing Unit. The brain of a computer, consisting of main memory, a controller, and a processor

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

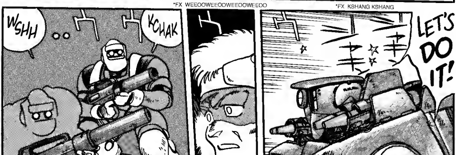


*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

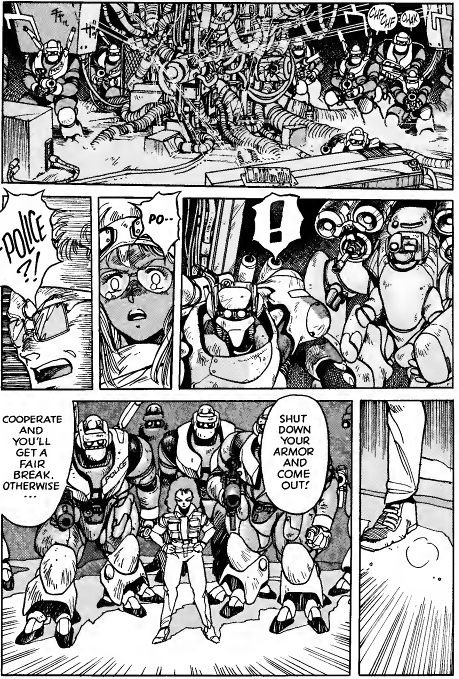

WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
CALM DOWN! IT'S JUST LIGHT FROM THE OPTICAL CIRCUITRY
IT'S NOT PART OF THE ALARM!

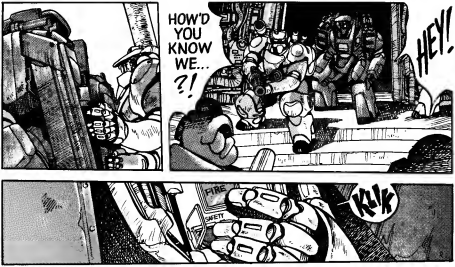
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX KSHANG KSHANG

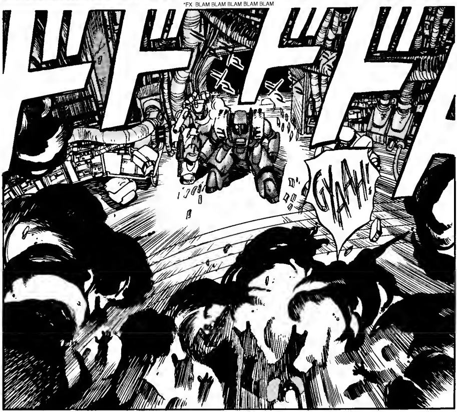

LET'S DO IT!
KCHAK
..
WSHH

*FX CHAK *FX SHFF *FX WEEOOWEEOO

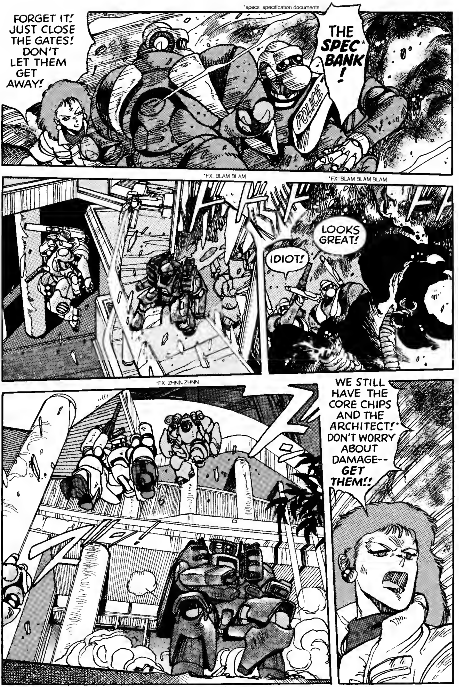

CHF CHF CHAK
!
PO--
--POLICE ?!
SHUT DOWN YOUR ARMOR AND COME OUT!
COOPERATE AND YOU'LL GET A FAIR BREAK. OTHERWISE . . .


HOW'D YOU KNOW WE... ?!
HEY!
FIRE
SAFETY
KLIK

*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM



*FX SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM


THE SPEC* BANK!
FORGET IT! JUST CLOSE THE GATES! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
POLICE
LOOKS GREAT!
IDIOT!
WE STILL HAVE THE CORE CHIPS AND THE ARCHITECT!* DON'T WORRY ABOUT DAMAGE-- GET THEM!!

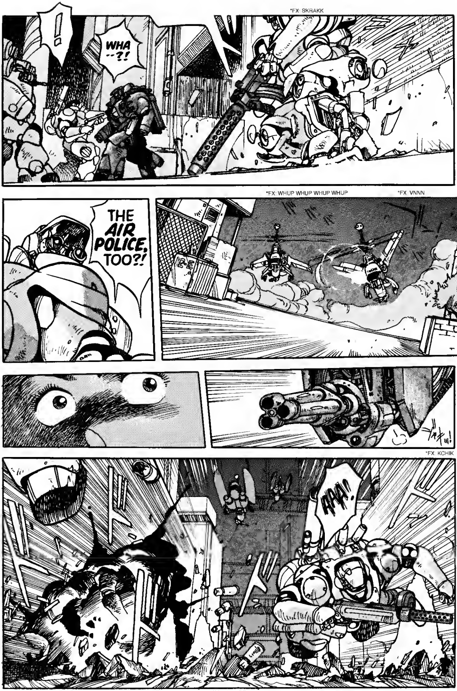
*specs: specification documents

*FX: BLAM BLAM

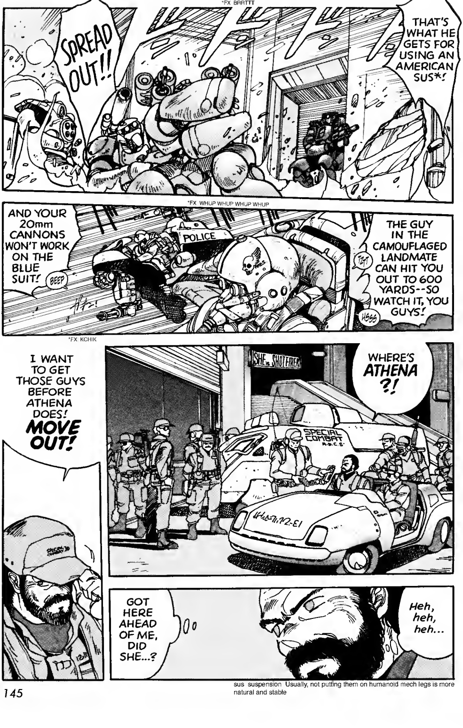
*FX: BLAM BLAM BLAM

*FX: ZHNN ZHNN

*architect: systems planning technician, someone who considers machine behavior methodology


*FX SKRAKK
!
WHA --?!
THE *AIR POLICE*, TOO?!
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
*FX VNNN
*FX KCHIK
AAA!!
*FX BRRTTT

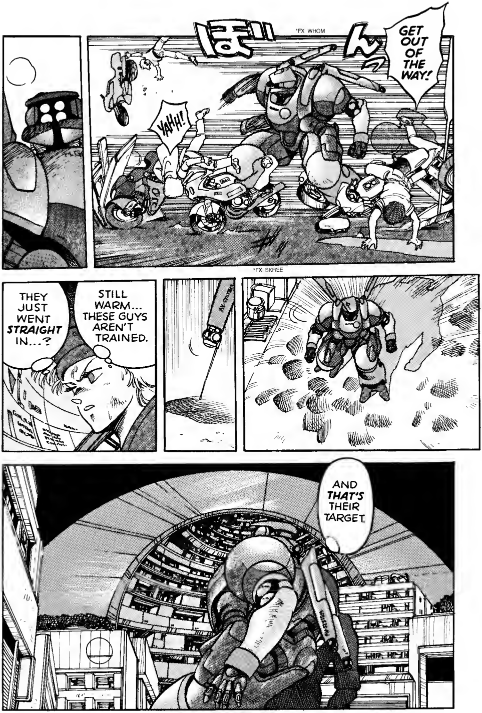
*FX BRRTTT

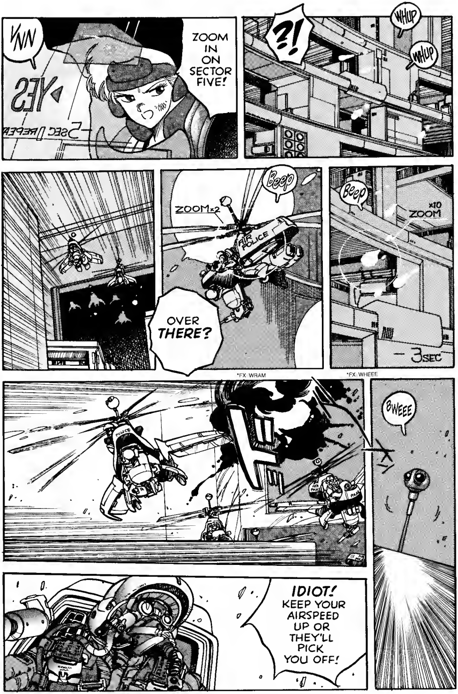

THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR USING AN AMERICAN SUS*!
SPREAD OUT!!
THE GUY IN THE CAMOUFLAGED LANDMATE CAN HIT YOU OUT TO 600 YARDS--SO WATCH IT, YOU GUYS!
TZT
HSSS
POLICE
AND YOUR 20mm CANNONS WON'T WORK ON THE BLUE SUIT!
BEEP
WHERE'S ATHENA ?!
SHE is SHOTFIRER
SPECIAL COMBAT A.D.C.S
I WANT TO GET THOSE GUYS BEFORE ATHENA DOES! MOVE OUT!
Heh, heh, heh...
GOT HERE AHEAD OF ME, DID SHE...?

*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

*FX KCHIK

sus suspension Usually, not putting them on humanoid mech legs is more natural and stable

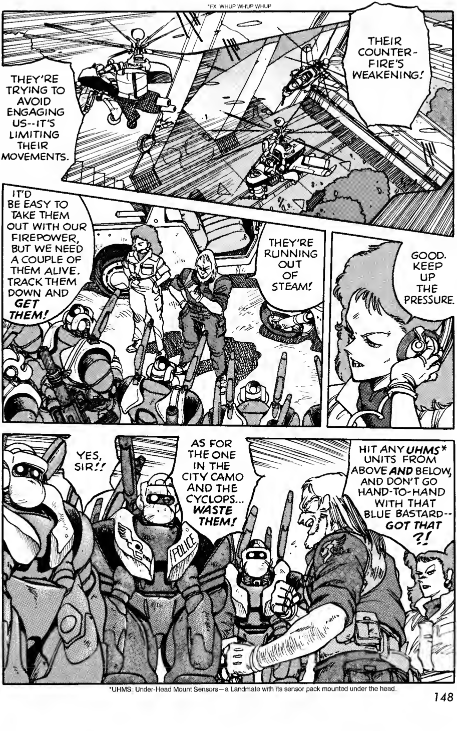

GET OUT OF THE WAY!
ぼん
*FX WHOM
YAHH!
*FX SKREE
STILL WARM... THESE GUYS AREN'T TRAINED.
THEY JUST WENT *STRAIGHT* IN...?
AND *THAT'S* THEIR TARGET.


VNN
ZOOM IN ON SECTOR FIVE!
YES ◀
—5SEC
?!
WHUP
WHUP
Beep
ZOOM×2
AIR POLICE
OVER THERE?
Beep
×10 ZOOM
—3SEC
POLICE
BWEEE
IDIOT! KEEP YOUR AIRSPEED UP OR THEY'LL PICK YOU OFF!

*FX WRAM

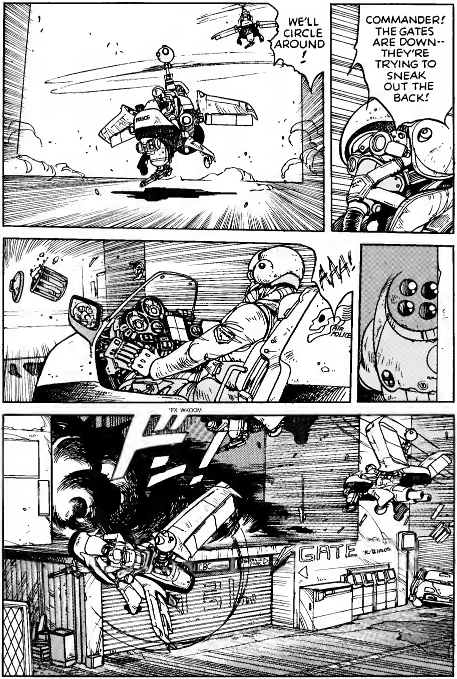
*FX WHEEE

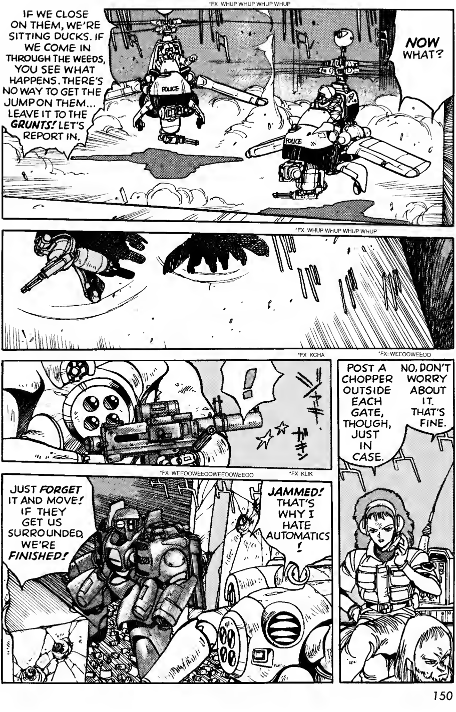
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP

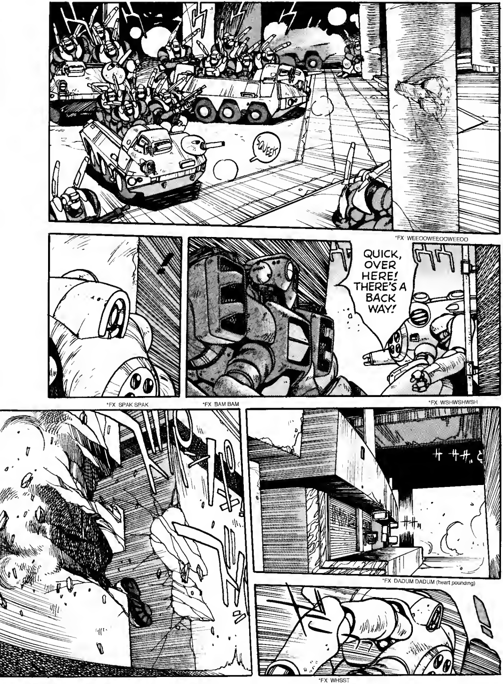

THEIR COUNTER-FIRE'S WEAKENING!
THEY'RE TRYING TO AVOID ENGAGING US--IT'S LIMITING THEIR MOVEMENTS.
GOOD. KEEP UP THE PRESSURE.
THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF STEAM!
IT'D BE EASY TO TAKE THEM OUT WITH OUR FIREPOWER, BUT WE NEED A COUPLE OF THEM ALIVE. TRACK THEM DOWN AND *GET THEM!*
HIT ANY *UHMS** UNITS FROM ABOVE *AND* BELOW, AND DON'T GO HAND-TO-HAND WITH THAT BLUE BASTARD-- *GOT THAT ?!*
AS FOR THE ONE IN THE CITY CAMO AND THE CYCLOPS... *WASTE THEM!*
YES, SIR!!
POLICE

---

*UHMS: Under-Head Mount Sensors—a Landmate with its sensor pack mounted under the head.


WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND!
POLICE
COMMANDER! THE GATES ARE DOWN-- THEY'RE TRYING TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK!
AAA!
AIR POLICE
*FX WKOOM
GATE
BC


*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
NOW WHAT?
IF WE CLOSE ON THEM, WE'RE SITTING DUCKS. IF WE COME IN THROUGH THE WEEDS, YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS. THERE'S NO WAY TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM... LEAVE IT TO THE ***GRUNTS!*** LET'S REPORT IN.
POLICE
POLICE
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
*FX: WEEOOWEEOO
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THAT'S FINE.
POST A CHOPPER OUTSIDE EACH GATE, THOUGH, JUST IN CASE.
*FX KCHA
!
*FX KLIK
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
JAMMED! THAT'S WHY I HATE AUTOMATICS!
JUST ***FORGET*** IT AND MOVE! IF THEY GET US SURROUNDED, WE'RE ***FINISHED!***


SQUEEK
QUICK, OVER HERE! THERE'S A BACK WAY!

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

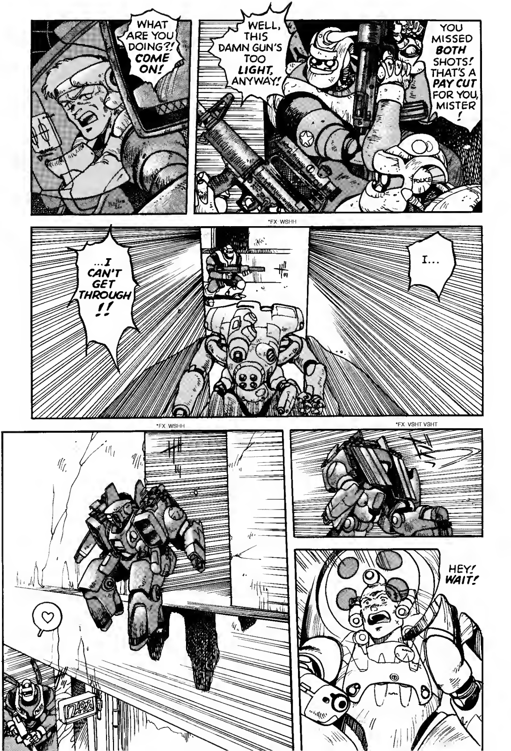
*FX WSHWSHWSH

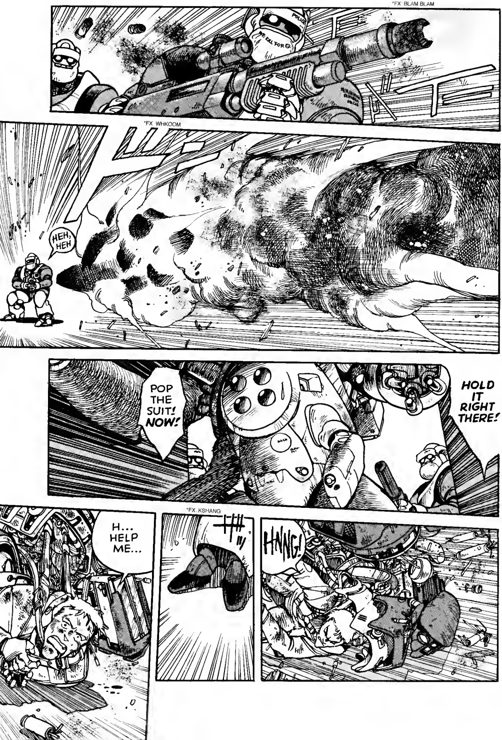
*FX BAM BAM

*FX SPAK SPAK

*FX DADUM DADUM (heart pounding)

*FX WHSST

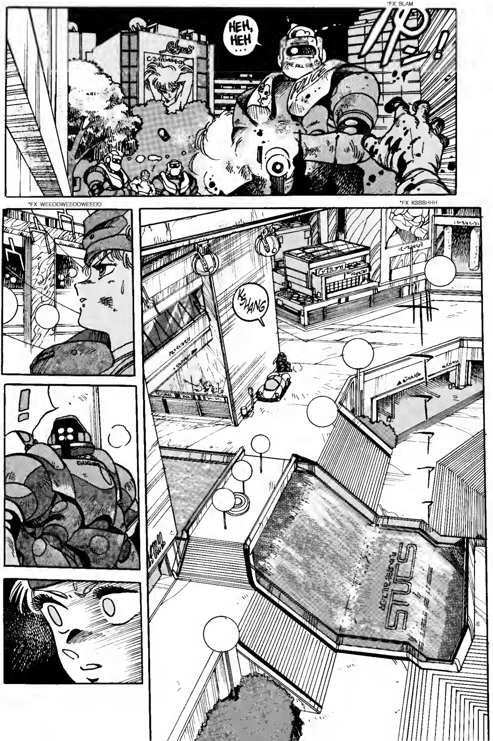

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! COME ON!
YOU MISSED BOTH SHOTS! THAT'S A PAY CUT FOR YOU, MISTER!
WELL, THIS DAMN GUN'S TOO LIGHT, ANYWAY!
POLICE
*FX WSHH
I...
...I CAN'T GET THROUGH!!
*FX WSHH
♡
*FX VSHT VSHT
HEY! WAIT!


*FX BLAM BLAM
POLICE
WE CALL FOR
*FX WHKOOM
HEH, HEH
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
POP THE SUIT! **NOW!**
HNNG!
*FX KSHANG
H... HELP ME...

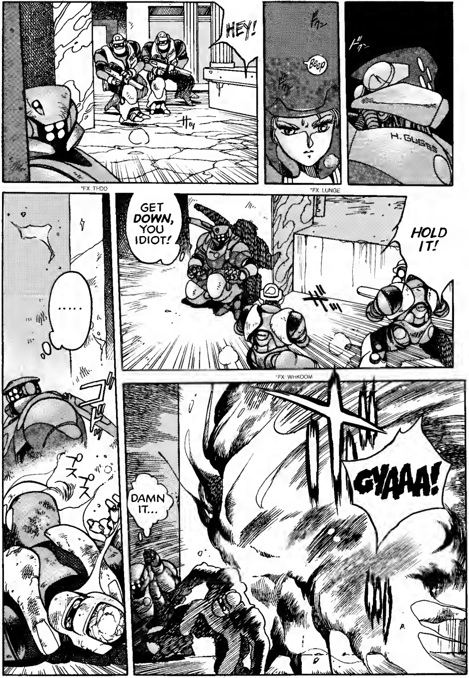
*FX BLAM

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX KSSSHHH



パン!
HEH, HEH …
POLICE
WE KILL
!
KSHANG


*FX: DADUM (heart pounding)

*FX: DADUM DADUM

*FX: WSHH

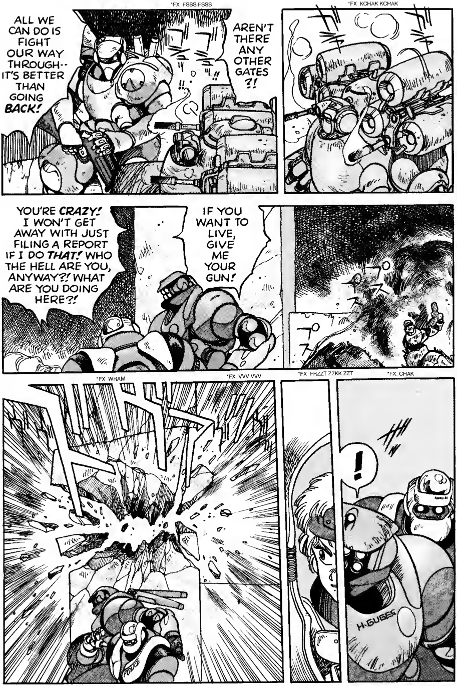
*FX: LUNGE

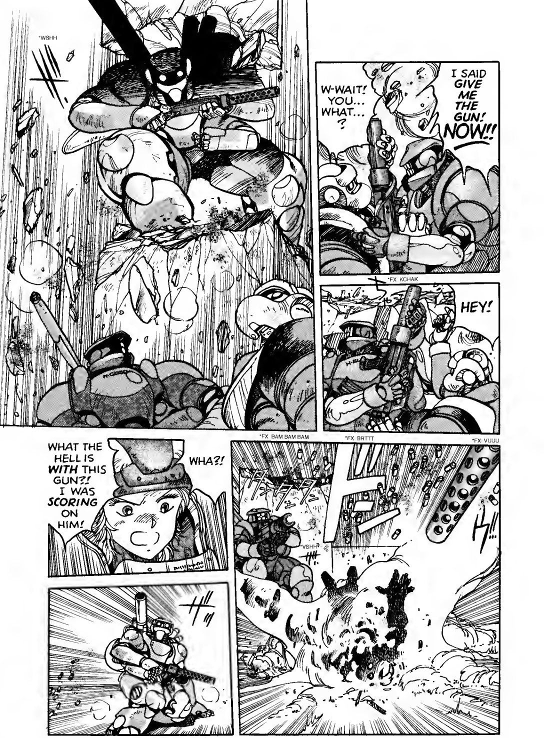
*FX: THDD

*FX: WHKOOM

*FX: FZZT ZZT

H. GUBBS
Beep
HEY!
HOLD IT!
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
.....
GYAAA!
DAMN IT...


*FX FSSS FSSS
AREN'T THERE ANY OTHER GATES?!
ALL WE CAN DO IS FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH-- IT'S BETTER THAN GOING *BACK!*
*FX KCHAK KCHAK
YOU'RE *CRAZY!* I WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST FILING A REPORT IF I DO *THAT!* WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, GIVE ME YOUR GUN!
*FX WRAM
*FX VVV VVV
*FX FRZZT ZZKK ZZT
*FX CHAK
!
H-GUBES
POLICE


*WSHH
W-WAIT! YOU... WHAT...?
I SAID *GIVE ME THE GUN!* NOW!!
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL IS ***WITH*** THIS GUN?! I WAS ***SCORING*** ON HIM!
WHA?!
*VSHH

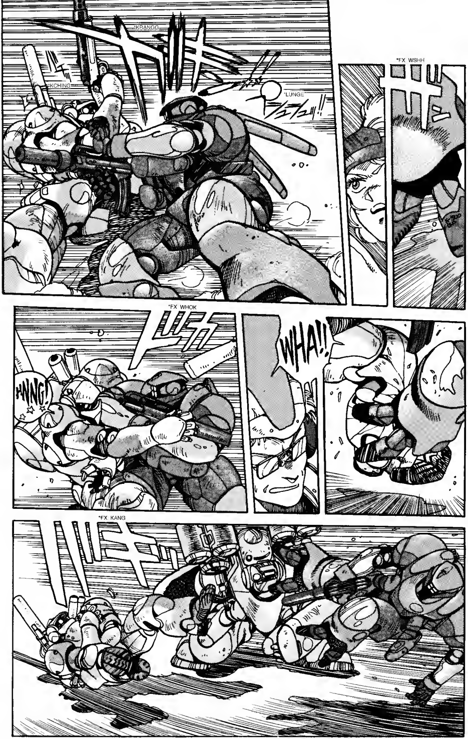
*FX KCHAK

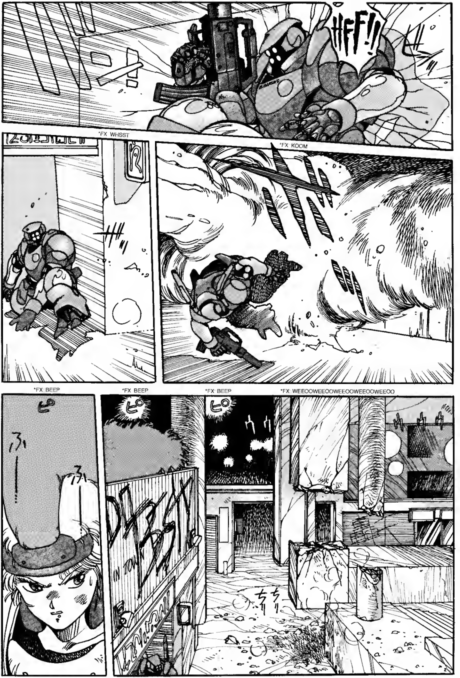
*FX BAM BAM BAM

*FX BRTTT

*FX VUUU

*FX WSHH


*FX WSHH
*KRANGG
*KCHING
*LUNGE
WHA!!
*FX WHOK
HNNG!
*FX KANG



HFF!!
ピ
ピ
ピ
ふ
ふ
ウウ
IN TOWN
ちち

*FX WHDD

*FX SKRAK

*FX WHSST

*FX KOOM

*FX BEEP

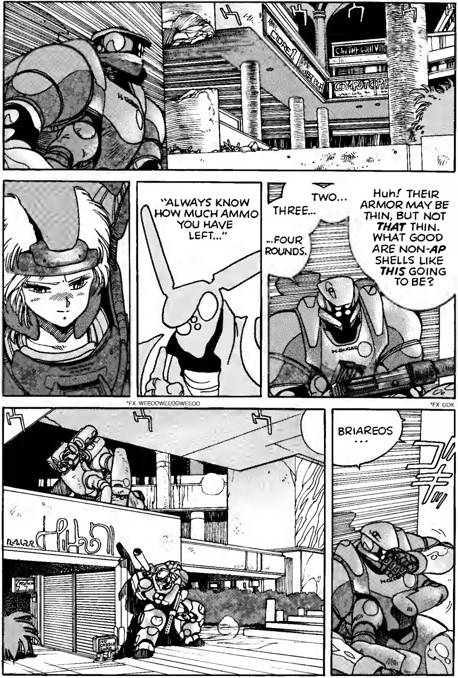
*FX BEEP

*FX BEEP

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX HUFF HUFF

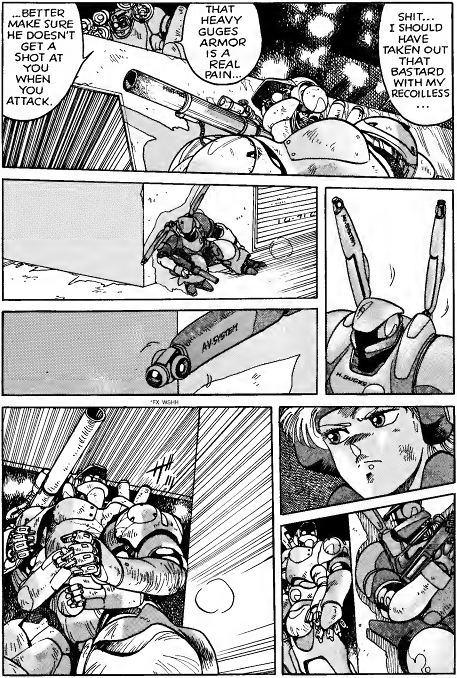
*FX CHK CHK (debris falling)

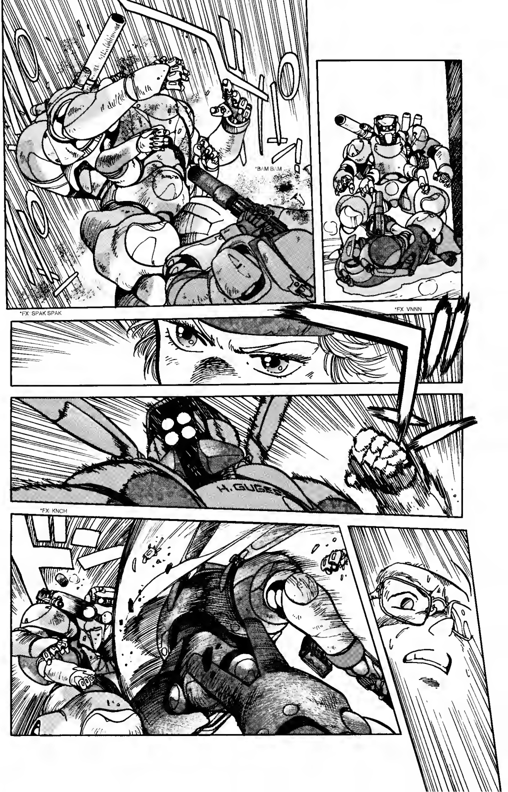

*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

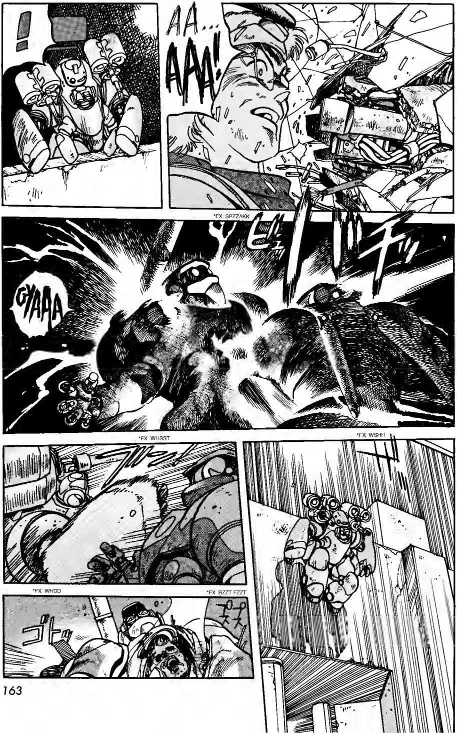
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

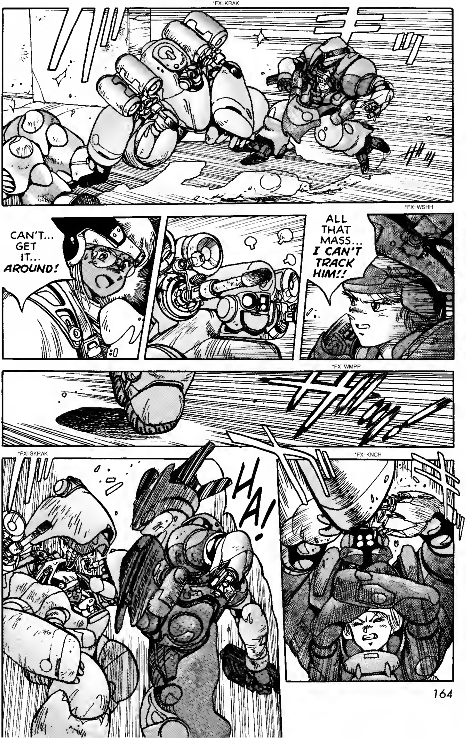
*FX GOK

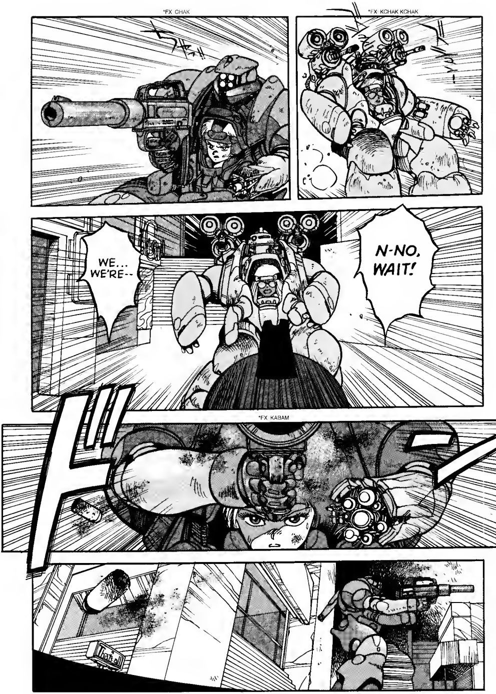
CIDRE1
COMPUTER
"ALWAYS KNOW HOW MUCH AMMO YOU HAVE LEFT..."
TWO...
THREE...
...FOUR ROUNDS.
Huh! THEIR ARMOR MAY BE THIN, BUT NOT **THAT** THIN. WHAT GOOD ARE NON-**AP** SHELLS LIKE **THIS** GOING TO BE?
BRIAREOS...

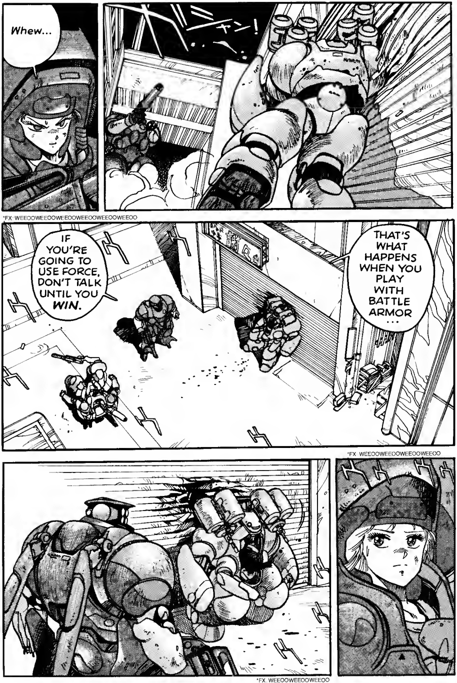

SHIT... I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN OUT THAT BASTARD WITH MY RECOILLESS ...
THAT HEAVY GUGES ARMOR IS A REAL PAIN...
...BETTER MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET A SHOT AT YOU WHEN YOU ATTACK.
A-V-SYSTEM
*FX WSHH


*BAM BAM
*FX SPAK SPAK
*FX VNNN
H. GUGES
*FX KNCH


AA... AAA!
!
*FX SPZZAKK
GYAAA
*FX WSHH
*FX WHSST
*FX WHDD
*FX BZZT FZZT


*FX: KRAK
*FX: WSHH
CAN'T... GET IT... *AROUND!*
ALL THAT MASS... *I CAN'T TRACK HIM!!*
*FX: WMPP
*FX: SKRAK
HA!
*FX: KNCH


*FX CHAK
*FX KCHAK KCHAK
WE... WE'RE--
N-NO, WAIT!
*FX KABAM
That's all

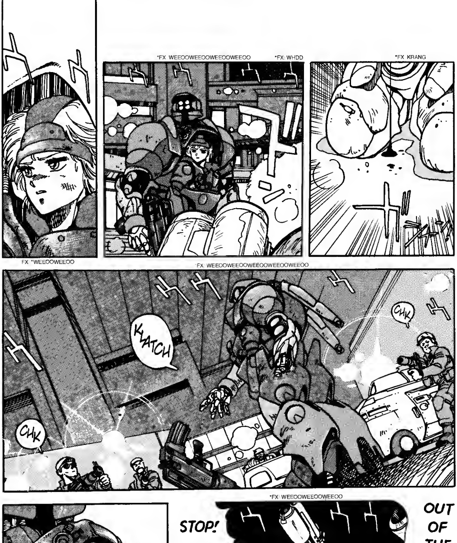

Whew...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY WITH BATTLE ARMOR...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE FORCE, DON'T TALK UNTIL YOU *WIN*.

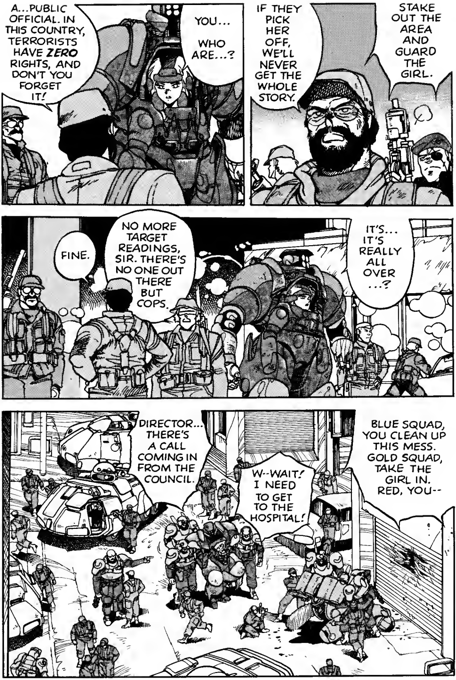
*FX: KSHANGG

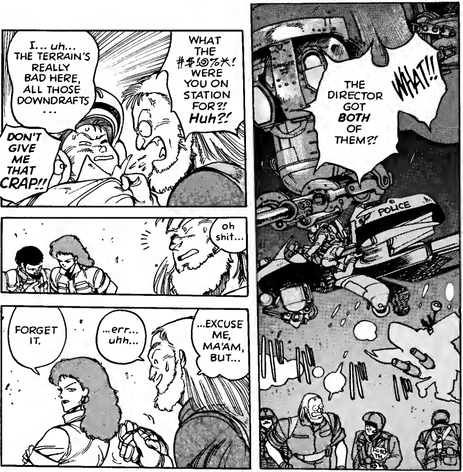
*FX: WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

*FX: WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO

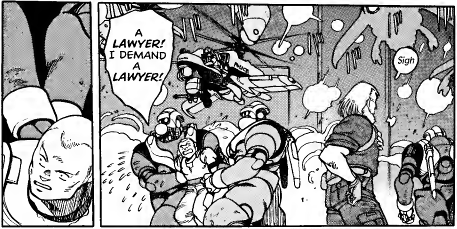
*FX: WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO


*FX KRANG
*FX WHDD
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
FX *WEEOOWEEOO
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
CHK
KLATCH
CHK
*FX WEEOOWEEOOWEEOO
OUT OF THE SUIT!
STOP!
DON'T SHOOT!

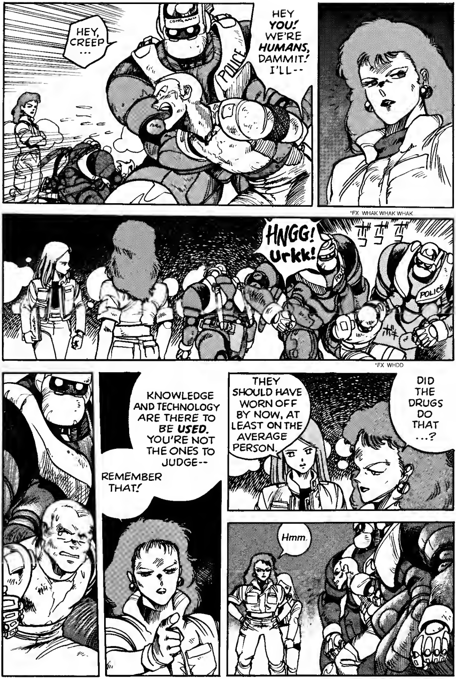

STAKE OUT THE AREA AND GUARD THE GIRL.
IF THEY PICK HER OFF, WE'LL NEVER GET THE WHOLE STORY.
YOU... WHO ARE...?
A...PUBLIC OFFICIAL. IN THIS COUNTRY, TERRORISTS HAVE ***ZERO*** RIGHTS, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
IT'S... IT'S REALLY ALL OVER ...?
NO MORE TARGET READINGS, SIR. THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE BUT COPS.
FINE.
BLUE SQUAD, YOU CLEAN UP THIS MESS. GOLD SQUAD, TAKE THE GIRL IN. RED, YOU--
W--WAIT! I NEED TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL!
DIRECTOR... THERE'S A CALL COMING IN FROM THE COUNCIL.


WHAT!!
THE DIRECTOR GOT BOTH OF THEM?!
WHAT THE #$!%*! WERE YOU ON STATION FOR?! Huh?!
I... uh... THE TERRAIN'S REALLY BAD HERE, ALL THOSE DOWNDRAFTS ...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!!
oh shit...
...EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT...
...err... uhh...
FORGET IT.
POLICE

*FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

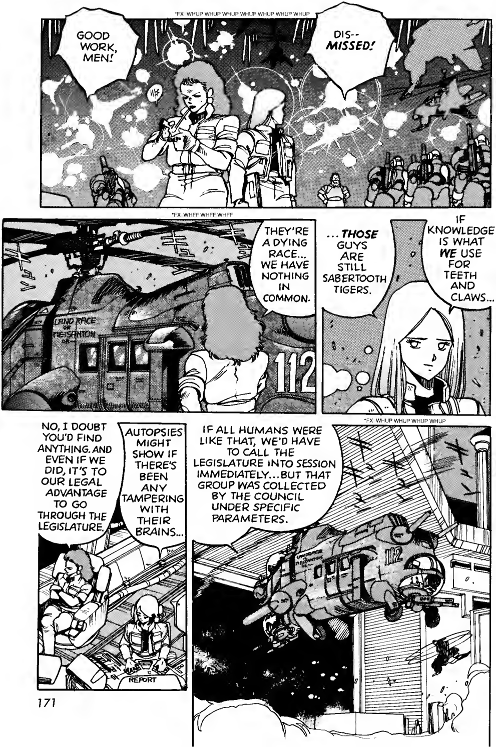

A LAWYER! I DEMAND A LAWYER!
Sigh
POLICE

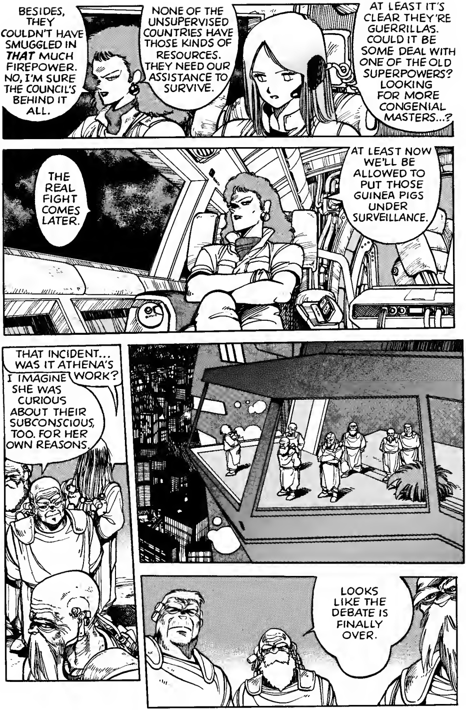
*FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

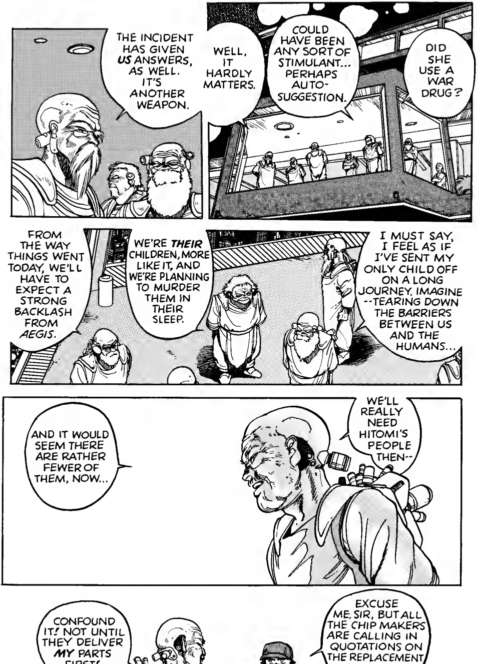

HEY, CREEP ...
HEY YOU! WE'RE HUMANS, DAMMIT! I'LL--
HNGG! Urkk!
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE THERE TO BE USED. YOU'RE NOT THE ONES TO JUDGE--
REMEMBER THAT!
THEY SHOULD HAVE WORN OFF BY NOW, AT LEAST ON THE AVERAGE PERSON.
DID THE DRUGS DO THAT ...?
Hmm.
POLICE
POLICE

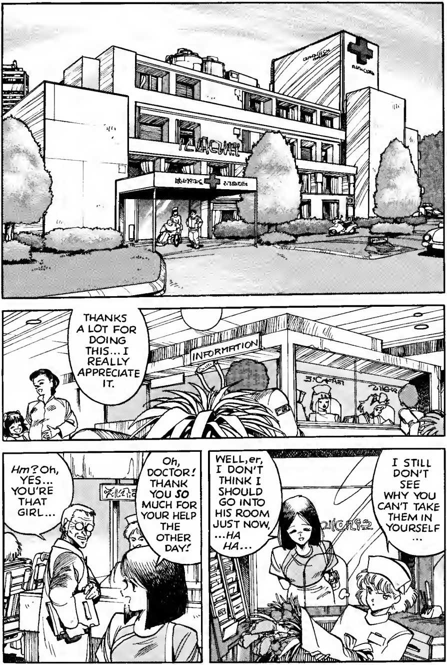
*FX WHAK WHAK WHAK

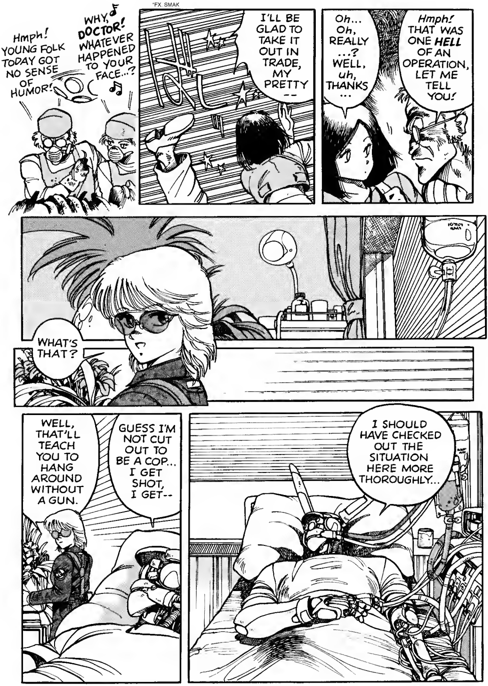
*FX WHDD

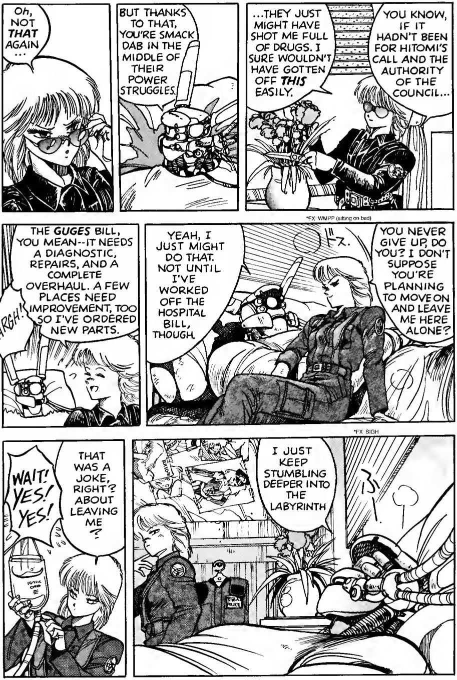

*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
GOOD WORK, MEN!
WHF
DIS-- *MISSED!*
*FX WHFF WHFF WHFF
LAND RACE OF MEISANTON
112
THEY'RE A DYING RACE... WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.
...***THOSE*** GUYS ARE STILL SABERTOOTH TIGERS.
IF KNOWLEDGE IS WHAT ***WE*** USE FOR TEETH AND CLAWS...
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
NO, I DOUBT YOU'D FIND ANYTHING. AND EVEN IF WE DID, IT'S TO OUR LEGAL ADVANTAGE TO GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.
AUTOPSIES MIGHT SHOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THEIR BRAINS...
IF ALL HUMANS WERE LIKE THAT, WE'D HAVE TO CALL THE LEGISLATURE INTO SESSION IMMEDIATELY...BUT THAT GROUP WAS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER SPECIFIC PARAMETERS.
REPORT
112


AT LEAST IT'S CLEAR THEY'RE GUERRILLAS. COULD IT BE SOME DEAL WITH ONE OF THE OLD SUPERPOWERS? LOOKING FOR MORE CONGENIAL MASTERS...?
NONE OF THE UNSUPERVISED COUNTRIES HAVE THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES. THEY NEED OUR ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVE.
BESIDES, THEY COULDN'T HAVE SMUGGLED IN *THAT* MUCH FIREPOWER. NO, I'M SURE THE COUNCIL'S BEHIND IT ALL.
AT LEAST NOW WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO PUT THOSE GUINEA PIGS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
THE REAL FIGHT COMES LATER.
THAT INCIDENT... WAS IT ATHENA'S WORK?
I IMAGINE SHE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR SUBCONSCIOUS, TOO. FOR HER OWN REASONS.
LOOKS LIKE THE DEBATE IS FINALLY OVER.


DID SHE USE A WAR DRUG?
COULD HAVE BEEN ANY SORT OF STIMULANT... PERHAPS AUTO-SUGGESTION.
WELL, IT HARDLY MATTERS.
THE INCIDENT HAS GIVEN *US* ANSWERS, AS WELL. IT'S ANOTHER WEAPON.
I MUST SAY, I FEEL AS IF I'VE SENT MY ONLY CHILD OFF ON A LONG JOURNEY. IMAGINE --TEARING DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS...
WE'RE ***THEIR*** CHILDREN, MORE LIKE IT, AND WE'RE PLANNING TO MURDER THEM IN THEIR SLEEP.
FROM THE WAY THINGS WENT TODAY, WE'LL HAVE TO EXPECT A STRONG BACKLASH FROM *AEGIS*.
WE'LL REALLY NEED HITOMI'S PEOPLE THEN--
AND IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE RATHER FEWER OF THEM, NOW...
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT ALL THE CHIP MAKERS ARE CALLING IN QUOTATIONS ON THE REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR ***GAIA***...
CONFOUND IT! NOT UNTIL THEY DELIVER ***MY*** PARTS FIRST!

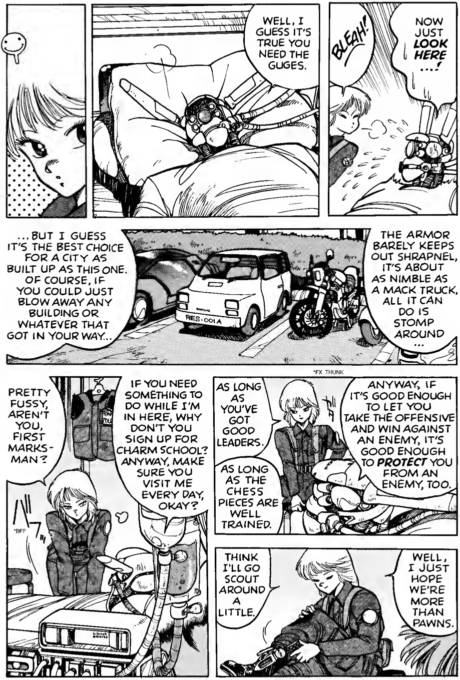

INFORMATION
THANKS A LOT FOR DOING THIS... I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
Oh, DOCTOR! THANK YOU *SO* MUCH FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY!
Hm? Oh, YES... YOU'RE THAT GIRL...
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM IN YOURSELF ...
WELL, *er*, I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO INTO HIS ROOM JUST NOW, ...*HA HA*...

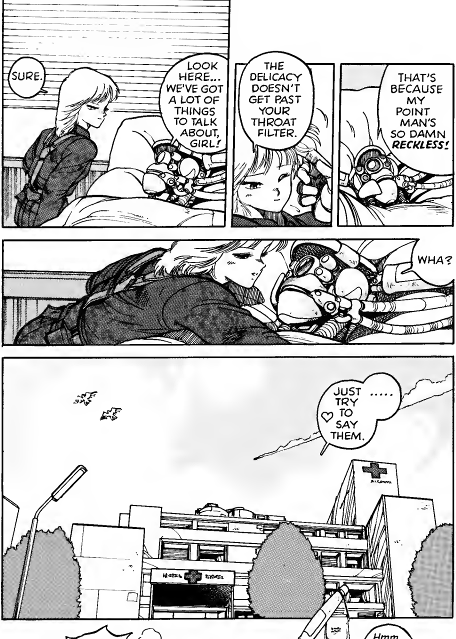

*FX SMAK
Hmph! YOUNG FOLK TODAY GOT NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
WHY, DOCTOR! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE...?
I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE IT OUT IN TRADE, MY PRETTY --
Oh... Oh, REALLY ...? WELL, uh, THANKS ...
Hmph! THAT WAS ONE HELL OF AN OPERATION, LET ME TELL YOU!
WHAT'S THAT?
WELL, THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO HANG AROUND WITHOUT A GUN.
GUESS I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A COP... I GET SHOT, I GET--
I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED OUT THE SITUATION HERE MORE THOROUGHLY...


Oh, NOT THAT AGAIN...
BUT THANKS TO THAT, YOU'RE SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR POWER STRUGGLES.
YOU KNOW, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HITOMI'S CALL AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL...
...THEY JUST MIGHT HAVE SHOT ME FULL OF DRUGS. I SURE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OFF THIS EASILY.
THE GUGES BILL, YOU MEAN--IT NEEDS A DIAGNOSTIC, REPAIRS, AND A COMPLETE OVERHAUL. A FEW PLACES NEED IMPROVEMENT, TOO SO I'VE ORDERED NEW PARTS.
YARGH!
YOU NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU? I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE PLANNING TO MOVE ON AND LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?
ドス
YEAH, I JUST MIGHT DO THAT. NOT UNTIL I'VE WORKED OFF THE HOSPITAL BILL, THOUGH.
THAT WAS A JOKE, RIGHT? ABOUT LEAVING ME?
WAIT! YES! YES!
I JUST KEEP STUMBLING DEEPER INTO THE LABYRINTH
ふー
POLICE

*FX WMPP (sitting on bed)

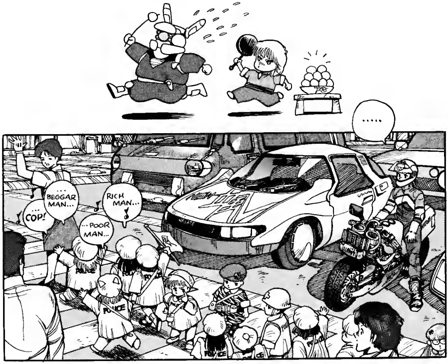
*FX SIGH

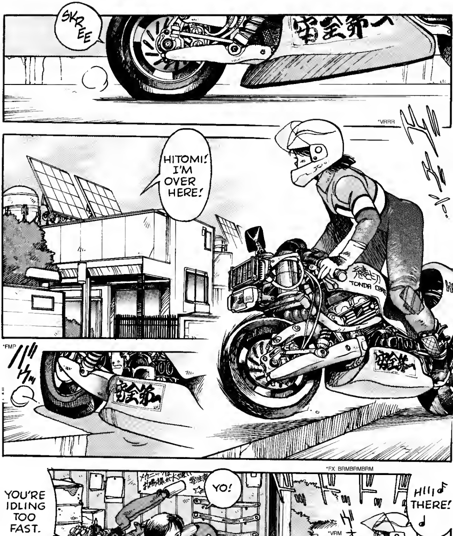

WELL, I GUESS IT'S TRUE YOU NEED THE GUGES.
BLEAH!
NOW JUST **LOOK HERE** ...!
THE ARMOR BARELY KEEPS OUT SHRAPNEL, IT'S ABOUT AS NIMBLE AS A MACK TRUCK, ALL IT CAN DO IS STOMP AROUND ...
... BUT I GUESS IT'S THE BEST CHOICE FOR A CITY AS BUILT UP AS THIS ONE. OF COURSE, IF YOU COULD JUST BLOW AWAY ANY BUILDING OR WHATEVER THAT GOT IN YOUR WAY...
RES-001A
PRETTY FUSSY, AREN'T YOU, FIRST MARKSMAN?
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING TO DO WHILE I'M IN HERE, WHY DON'T YOU SIGN UP FOR CHARM SCHOOL? ANYWAY, MAKE SURE YOU VISIT ME EVERY DAY, OKAY?
*BFF
*FX THUNK
ANYWAY, IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO LET YOU TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AND WIN AGAINST AN ENEMY, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO **PROTECT** YOU FROM AN ENEMY, TOO.
AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT GOOD LEADERS.
AS LONG AS THE CHESS PIECES ARE WELL TRAINED.
WELL, I JUST HOPE WE'RE MORE THAN PAWNS.
THINK I'LL GO SCOUT AROUND A LITTLE.


LOOK HERE... WE'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO TALK ABOUT, GIRL!
SURE.
THE DELICACY DOESN'T GET PAST YOUR THROAT FILTER.
THAT'S BECAUSE MY POINT MAN'S SO DAMN *RECKLESS!*
WHA?
JUST TRY TO SAY THEM. ♡ .....
Hmm... MAYBE YOU SHOULD, uh...
Hmph! WASH IT OFF *YOURSELF!*

APPLESEED, BOOK ONE: THE END

APPENDIX

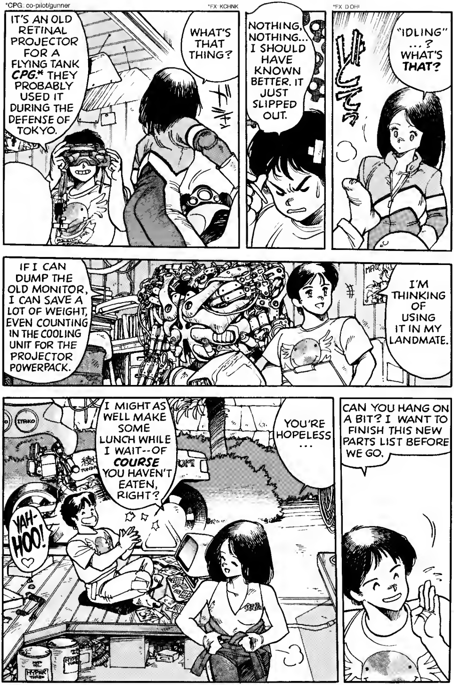

......
RICH MAN...
...POOR MAN...
...BEGGAR MAN...
...COP!

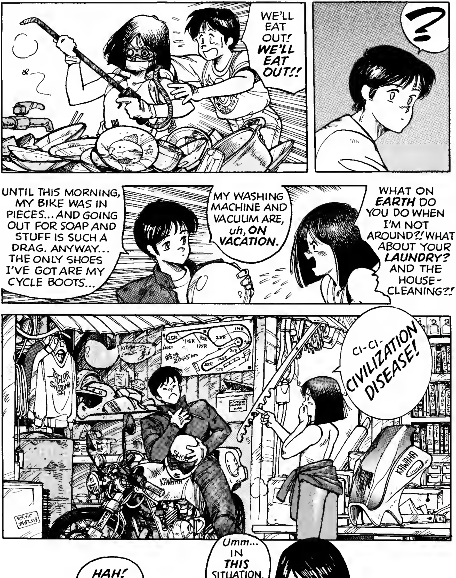

SKREE
*VRRR
HITOMI! I'M OVER HERE!
TONDA CBR
HITOMI
*FMP
*FX BRMBRMBRM
HI!! THERE!
*VRM
YO!
YOU'RE IDLING TOO FAST.
WE KILL FOR PEACE!
HITOMI

*CPG: co-pilot/gunner

*FX: KCHNK

*FX: DOH!


"IDLING" ...? WHAT'S **THAT?**
NOTHING, NOTHING... I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. IT JUST SLIPPED OUT.
WHAT'S THAT THING?
IT'S AN OLD RETINAL PROJECTOR FOR A FLYING TANK **CPG.*** THEY PROBABLY USED IT DURING THE DEFENSE OF TOKYO.
I'M THINKING OF USING IT IN MY LANDMATE.
IF I CAN DUMP THE OLD MONITOR, I CAN SAVE A LOT OF WEIGHT, EVEN COUNTING IN THE COOLING UNIT FOR THE PROJECTOR POWERPACK.
CAN YOU HANG ON A BIT? I WANT TO FINISH THIS NEW PARTS LIST BEFORE WE GO.
YOU'RE HOPELESS...
I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME LUNCH WHILE I WAIT--OF **COURSE** YOU HAVEN'T EATEN, RIGHT?
YAH-HOO! ♡


WE'LL EAT OUT! WE'LL EAT OUT!!
?
UNTIL THIS MORNING, MY BIKE WAS IN PIECES... AND GOING OUT FOR SOAP AND STUFF IS SUCH A DRAG. ANYWAY... THE ONLY SHOES I'VE GOT ARE MY CYCLE BOOTS...
MY WASHING MACHINE AND VACUUM ARE, uh, ON VACATION.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU DO WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?! WHAT ABOUT YOUR LAUNDRY? AND THE HOUSE-CLEANING?!
JAGLAR SHUROMA SA
25R
105R
80R
28R
100R
170R
20R
35R
55R
HOST
鈴鹿 2045 km
SHOEI
KAWAHA
CI-CI-CIVILIZATION DISEASE!
KAWAHA
HAH! "MANUAL" DISEASE!
SHOEI
Umm... IN THIS SITUATION, I SHOULD ...
HITOMI
正しい交際 対人マニュアル
BIOROYD HITOMI →

*book CORRECT SOCIAL INTERACTION
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS MANUAL
FOR BIOROID HITOMI

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA / SCIENCE FICTION

士 郎 正 宗 THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

World War III is over, and nomad soldier Deunan Knute and her cyborg partner Briareos struggle to survive in the abandoned cities and demilitarized zones of the postwar wasteland. Matters improve when they are found and brought to Olympus, an urban utopia and centerpiece for the reconstruction of civilization. Deunan and Bri join the Olympus police, a force that seems hardly necessary in such a paradise. But perfection is an illusion, and the peaceful facade of Olympus hides a dark secret, a violent struggle between human and cyborg that could once again plunge the world into war . . . and genocide.

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DARK HORSE MANGA